



Thursday, January 11, 2018

Read by more than 46,000 people

Price when sold 70p

## TIME IS CALLED ON PUB RESCUE HOPES AS STORE TO GO AHEAD



A Co-op store will replace The Hasbury Inn

A ONCE popular pub will be turned into a supermarket two years after closing – dashing hopes that it could be re-opened.

Owners of The Hasbury Inn have confirmed work will now start on converting the pub in Halesowen into a Co-op within weeks.

Campaigners had hoped the pub on Hagley Road could be saved after it appeared plans to create a shop had stalled.

Ward councillors have raised concerns about anti-social behaviour, vandalism and fly-tipping on the site, which has been left vacant since the pub, formerly known as The Beehive, shut.

Councillor Simon Phipps described the move as 'bad for local businesses' but was

'happy' something was being done with the site. He said: "They said that they were looking to start building work in the next six to eight weeks."

"I am still not a fan of a shop being on that site. It is bad for local businesses and it is bad for local residents, particularly with the noise with the deliveries that will be made. At least I am happy that something is going to be there."

A petition opposing the scheme in August 2015 was signed by 674 people as part of a Save The Hasbury Inn campaign.

David Shipton, pub portfolio director for owners New River, said: "The closure of a pub would always be a last resort for us. We reviewed the historic trading performance

of the Hasbury Inn, and regrettably it was concluded that the pub is not financially viable and did not have a sustainable future."

"Dudley Council has given planning permission for a new convenience store to be operated by the Co-op, to provide a new high-quality grocery offer for the community."

"Work will commence on delivering this new store in the spring of 2018."

Tom Stainer, spokesman for Campaign for Real Ale, said: "Pubs are vital to local communities and economies."

"In many areas and villages they provide the last remaining public meeting space with meeting halls and post offices already lost."

### COURT

## Four charged over girl's car fall death

FOUR people have been charged in connection with the death of a 20-year-old Stourbridge woman who fell from a car bonnet in Dudley. Ellie Underhill died a week after suffering head injuries on the car park of Tesco Extra, off Birmingham Road, on Boxing Day 2016.

Luke Hickman, aged 19, of Wassell Road, Wollescote, has been charged with manslaughter and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Ross Bingham, 20, of Hagley Road, Edgbaston; Ely Phillips, 19, of Seymour Road, Wollescote; and Hana Edwards, 18, of Grove Road, Wollescote, are accused of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. They were due to appear at Walsall Magistrates Court.

### ACCIDENT

## Ford Fiesta flips over on ring road

FOUR people in their 20s had a lucky escape when their car careered into a lamp-post and ended up on its roof on Stourbridge Ring Road.

The Ford Fiesta driver lost control shortly before midnight on Saturday. Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill were called but the occupants had all got out. None were badly hurt but a 22-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink driving.

### INDUSTRY

## MG roars back with £500,000 investment

MG MOTOR UK is to invest £500,000 in its training centre and distribution hub in Longbridge, Birmingham, to support UK market growth.

The investment will include new goods-inwards bays, enhanced shelving and racking for ground-level picking, a new container-unloading platform and upgrades to the reception and office block.

### INSIDE

## CELEBRATING HERO DUNCAN



PAGE 16

# Second phase of work to start soon at Cornbow £1m REVAMP FOR SHOPPING CENTRE

**AMBITIOUS £1.2 million plans to revamp Cornbow Shopping Centre have taken a step forward after a planning application was submitted to Dudley Council.**

Work is being carried out in two phases at the Halesowen shopping centre in a bid to modernise its ageing appearance.

Phase one began in July, which focused on the building's exterior, while the second stage, focusing on the inside, will start early in 2018. The planning application by Cornbow has been recommended for approval by council bosses but a final decision still needs to be made.

Wayne Edwards, chairman of the Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID), said: "We're thrilled about the investment into the Cornbow Shopping Centre."

"This investment means more to the town than simply regenerating a significant part of the high street, it also represents a commitment to improving Halesowen and a belief in its future prosperity."

### Refurbished

The first stage has seen walls given a deep clean and refurbished, while aged canopies from the façade have been removed. A new entrance canopy has also been installed on Hagley Street. The second stage will see improvements made to lighting, flooring, heating and ceilings.

Adrian Oliver, from Tansor Real Estate Company, which owns the centre, said: "We are incredibly happy with the progress of the redevelopment, the improvements are outstanding."

### Report by Jamie Brassington

"After the completion of phase two, we can no doubt expect the centre to become a new hub of activity for not just Halesowen's locals but also those from farther afield."

The move was welcomed by Halesowen South councillor David Vickers, who said: "The Cornbow got to a stage where it was a little bit tired. The revamp will make it easier, brighter and more attractive for residents in Halesowen to come and shop."

"I hope the work won't be too much of a disruption to businesses."

The current 45 outlets in the centre – including New Look, Peacocks, Clarks, Greggs and Druckers – will remain open throughout the second phase of work.

Coventry-based firm Active Construction will complete the works and Birmingham-based CBRE will continue to manage the project.

## Campaigners celebrate victory



Celebrating a bronze award from Camra is pub manager Matt Carey (centre) with the Friends of Haden Cross as bronze winners in the Campaign for Real Ale Pub Saving Awards 2017.

Tim Haskey, Friends of Haden Cross group chairman, said: "We are thrilled to hear the efforts of the local community have been rewarded. We fought the big boys and beat them twice."

**JORDANS SOLICITORS**

*Friendly, efficient  
and price  
competitive*



Here at  
**Jordans Solicitors**  
we offer, Conveyancing  
both Residential and  
Commercial, Wills and  
Probate, Powers of Attorney  
& Family Law...

If the regular office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm  
Monday to Friday are not very convenient  
for you we can offer Thursday evening and  
Saturday morning

1 Summer Hill, Halesowen B63 3BU Tel: 0121 585 3900  
35 Payne Street, Blackheath, West Midlands B65 0DH  
Telephone: 0121 559 2922

[www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk](http://www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk)



**2 CONTENTS**

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
LIFESTYLE	18&20
THE TICKET	25
BRAIN GYM	31
LOCAL SPECIALISTS	33-34
MOTORING	37-38
SPORT	39-40
<b>CONTACT US</b>	

**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205  
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:** Tel: 01902 319430  
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

**ADVERTISING:** Nicola Cope  
Tel: 01902 319573  
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**PROPERTY:** Colin Bailey  
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731  
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

**MOTORING:** Liz Barratt  
Tel: 01384 353244  
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

**CLASSIFIED:**  
Tel: 01902 317878  
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

**DISTRIBUTION:** Paul Jones  
Tel: 01902 319990  
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

## Halesowen CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES  
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm  
[www.yourchronicle.com](http://www.yourchronicle.com)

**DON'T MISS YOUR Express & Star**

**EVERY DAY ON THE BALL**  
All your latest sports updates

**EVERY SATURDAY NIGEL HASTILOW**  
He always tackles the hot topics head-on

# 1,200 back island fight after tragedy



Kyle Bastable – hit by lorry

MORE than 1,000 people have signed a petition to change the speed limit on a major traffic island in the Black Country where a 11-year-old boy died after being hit by a lorry.

The change.org petition – set up in memory of Kyle Bastable – has seen an influx of signatures calling for changes to the speed limit for HGV lorries around Birchley Island in Oldbury, alongside working traffic light cameras and barriers.

Kyle, also known as Joe, suffered serious injuries and died close to the Shell garage near the island on August 31.

The petition has been started by Kyle's mother, Tammy Bastable, and has attracted more than 1,260 signatures. It is intended to be submitted to Sandwell Council once the 1,500 mark has been reached.

## Changes

In a statement on the site, Mrs Bastable pleads that unless changes are made, Kyle 'wasn't the first and won't be the last'. It reads: "We want changes to speed limit for HGV lorries on Birchley Island to prevent anymore deaths an accidents, also to have working cameras

which will prevent speeding and vehicles going over on red lights as the cameras are not working – which could have helped my son's case a lot quicker.

"Having barriers around the island will stop people going on to the island to use as short cuts to McDonalds, Asda and petrol station. There is a walking path around the island which is misleading to pedestrians thinking its OK to cross and walk on.

"We want railings on joining roads off the junctions on the island which is the only island I know without railings with a gap were you can cross."

# Family pay tribute to young stabbing victim

**THE family of a man found stabbed to death in a Brierley Hill flat have paid tribute to their 'lovely and caring hard-working father, son and brother'.**

Police are hunting a killer after 24-year-old Jaskaran Kang was attacked in a flat over the Mini Mart convenience store in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, which neighbours say he ran with his brother.

Paramedics battled to save him but he was certified dead at the scene at 2.30am on Saturday. Detectives are now trying to piece together what happened and have appealed for information.

The convenience store and a pizza fast food outlet next door were cordoned off for over 24 hours while police inquiries continued. Flowers were laid outside the shop as stunned neighbours paid tribute.



Jaskaran Kang

One woman who lives opposite but asked not to be named said: "He was a lovely bloke, just like his brother. They had run the store for four or five years and were much liked. I cannot understand why anybody would want to do something like this to him. He had two children."

Another person who lives nearby said: "We all knew him as Kang. One brother would run it in the day and the other would come in the evening. They were rarely there at the same time but were both lovely people."

The family of Mr Kang, from Handsworth, said: "He was a lovely and caring hard-working father, son and brother who has been taken too soon. Everyone loved him and both the family and community are in shock. We just want justice."

Anyone with information is urged to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

## Classic cars and £500k to forge ahead



Lowell Williams, Chairman of Black Country Living Museum, and Alexander Patrick CBE, with 1939 Alvis Speed 25

FIVE vintage cars alongside a donation of half a million pounds has been given to the Black Country Museum to boost its Forging Ahead project.

Philanthropist Alexander Patrick CBE, of the Patrick Foundation, visited the Tipton Road attraction with Dudley College

principal Lowell Williams for a handover of the vintage vehicles. An annual donation of £30,000 for the next 10 years will also be given to help with the collection's maintenance.

Mr Patrick said: "The cars are all family cars and my father used to drive the Daimler SP250."

The cars include a Daimler Majestic Major, Morris Minor Van, 1939 Alvis Speed 25, Daimler SP250 and 1933 Austin 10 Patrick Special.

The Forging Ahead project is phase one of the museum's 40-year plan to create a world-class attraction, costing around £21.7 million.

# Court hears girl, 17, was strangled in hostel room

A COURT heard that a murder suspect strangled a 17-year-old girl he took back to his hostel room – sealing her body in a wardrobe with cling-film, a jury was told.

Ashley Foster struck within hours of meeting Megan Bills, three days after he had been freed from jail, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He denies murder.

The 24-year-old moved into a hostel for former inmates in Highgate Road, Brierley Hill on April 13 and was captured on CCTV taking the teenager into his room on April 16, Easter Sunday, it was said.

Foster left to stay with his sister some time later but Megan, from the Stourbridge area, was never seen alive again because she had been murdered by him, alleged Mr Crispin Aylett QC, prosecuting. He continued: "He must, then, have left her body inside his room. Certainly none of the CCTV at the hostel was ever to pick Megan up leaving the room and there is no other reliable evidence of her ever being seen alive again."

The court was told on Monday that in notes allegedly written by Foster to his relatives he told how the former Ridgewood High School pupil's death had happened as a result of a sex game gone wrong. The defendant did not return to the hostel for almost 24 hours.

Two and a half weeks later, on May 3, hostel staff complained of a bad smell during a routine inspection of Foster's room which he blamed on the carpet, continued the prosecutor. The following day staff returned when he was not in and discovered the wardrobe had its doors tied together with cloth and was covered in cling-film. Mr Aylett added: "When the cling film removed they found a badly decomposed body." Megan was identified from dental records.

• The case continues

## Carnival event seeking talent

A TALENT competition is being held in Halesowen with the winner and runner-up to be invited to perform at the town's annual carnival in the summer.

Halesowen Carnival and Music Festival is organising Halesowen's Got Talent to be held in Benjamin's, Birmingham Street, on March 18, running from 1pm to 6pm.

It will cost £5 to enter and performers should call 07598 981932 to make the necessary arrangements.

The winner will also get a £150 prize. The carnival is taking place on July 7 from noon in Highfield Park.

Anyone who would like to get involved, sponsor or donate to this event is urged to contact the organisers via email to [Halesowencarnival@gmail.com](mailto:Halesowencarnival@gmail.com)

**Concept BLINDS**

**UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS**

Vertical & Roller Blinds  
New season fabrics now available

Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge

**5 YEAR GUARANTEE**

Also available

- Romans • Pleated
- Conservatory Roof Blinds
- Wood Venetians
- Venetian Blinds
- Curved Tracks for Bay Windows

**FREEPHONE 0800 5875279**  
Open Seven Days a Week  
**0121 429 3169**

**FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery**

**Halesowen Fireplaces**  
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

Complete Fireplace Packages from £499 (including fire)

**360° VIRTUAL TOUR NOW ON WEBSITE**

For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)

Telephone 0121 559 9985

Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD  
[www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk](http://www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk)

**CC'S BOUTIQUE**

**BUY 1 GET 1 HALF PRICE ON ALL CLOTHING**

NEW FASHION BOUTIQUE NOW OPEN

One off finds, beautiful clothes, shoes, bags, accessories

Winter stock arriving daily

166 HALESOWEN ST, BLACKHEATH, B65 0ES  
Tel: 0121 439 3498

**Footworks Chiropody**  
APC Registered Clinicians

Ingrown Toe Nails Treated  
Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming  
Diabetic Foot Care  
General Foot Care  
Callus Reduction

Home Visit Service Also Available  
**01384 413444**  
201 - 203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

**BROKEN DENTURES?**  
AT THE DENTAL SHOP

Need Your Dentures Repairing Fast Well Look No Further We Are The Leading Specialists In Denture Repairs!

We Also Offer A Denture Cleaning Service!

**01384 413444**  
**07701 067261**

Emergency Weekend Repair Service Available



# Council get £1.2k-a-day from car parking fines

MOTORISTS are coughing up more than £1,200 a day in parking fines to Dudley Council.

New figures have revealed Dudley Council received £1.3m in fine payments over the past three years. This has risen from £332,161 in 2014/15 to £473,595 in 2015/16 and £535,790 in 2016/17. That is from 11,188 parking charge notices and fixed penalty notices in 2014/15, 15,159 in 2015/16 and 17,389 in 2016/17.

They also reveal the top 15 lucrative streets and car parks for parking fines over the three years. Wolverhampton Street in Dudley came top with 820 tickets, bringing in £25,814 over the period. High Street and Stone Street, both in Dudley, came second and third with 561 and 534 tickets handed out. Fourth was Stourbridge High Street which saw 525 tickets given out.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Parking restrictions are there for a reason – to keep our roads safe and traffic moving. The majority of motorists abide by the rules but unfortunately some people do not and receive a fixed penalty notice. All money generated goes back into helping fund council services."

Nearly 4,000 parking fines were handed out in just three months in Dudley borough last summer. More than £82,000 was made from penalty notices between July and September.

## 37 jobs go as MVS in administration

A BUILDING services group with its headquarters in Lye has ceased trading after going into administration just before Christmas with 37 staff made redundant.

MVS Group specialises in carrying out mechanical and electrical installations. Projects have included Wednesbury Leisure Centre and pipework installation at the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick.

Its mechanical services arm entered administration on December 15 and the parent group, which had its head office in Lynwood House, Dudley Road, went into administration soon after.

Contracts included a £1m deal at Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium for 40 concession stands.

## Somewhere soon

SOMEWHERE there's a place for Tab Operatic Society and it will be Stourbridge Town Hall when they stage musical West Side Story from March 6 to 10. Book on 07722 417962.

# MP pledges to broaden reach of Tories



James Morris MP – promoted

JAMES Morris has vowed to 'broaden the reach' of the Conservative Party in a bid to ensure 'a strong presence' in communities across the country.

The Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP has been appointed Conservative Party HQ vice-chairman for training and development, replacing Anthea McIntyre in this week's reshuffle by Prime Minister Theresa May.

He said: "Part of this role will be ensuring that Conservative activists across the country are equipped with the skills they need to represent their communities. I will be trying to meet

as many activists and campaigners as possible to see what works best, and seeing what we can do as a Party to broaden our reach."

Mr Morris, aged 50, was first elected to Parliament in 2010. He is one of a series of new appointments to CCHQ – the so called 'internal machine' of the party – which saw Brandon Lewis replace Sir Patrick McLoughlin as Tory Chairman.

It follows an internal review of the Tories' election performance by former cabinet minister Sir Eric Pickles, which recommended changes to at-

tract more young and ethnic minority voters to join and support the party.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge MP Margot James, 60, was promoted to the post of Culture Minister to work directly under Matt Hancock, who was handed the Culture Secretary brief.

She has impressed the Prime Minister in the junior role of Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, which she had held since July 2016. Her new brief includes broadband communications, heritage, creative industries, libraries, media, museums and galleries.

# Wolves dream comes true for tragic Neil

**A TERMINALLY ill father had his final wishes come true as a Wolves star delivered a special message and Disneyland was brought to him to surprise his daughter.**

Portuguese star Diogo Jota was a surprise addition to an emotional day as Neil Mattocks ticked three items off his bucket list.

The 43-year-old father-of-two, from Cradley, has been given weeks to live after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

Staff at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge, where he is being cared for, were able to arrange a personal message from Jota, to the delight of Neil and son Ryan, 16, who are both big Wolves fans.

There was also a special treat for Neil's step-daughter Paige who received a visit from two Disney princesses.

It had been Neil's dream to take his daughter, who is 17, to Disneyland so the hospice helped bring Disneyland to them in the form of two performers, who took on the form of Rapunzel and Frozen's Elsa.

Then, Neil and wife Gaye renewed their wedding vows in a touching ceremony in front of family and friends.

## Diagnosed

Neil was diagnosed with cancer in January last year but was told in December that nothing more could be done with him. He was transferred to the hospice where he is spending his final days.

It has been a desperate time for Gaye, 44, who married Neil in 2016, but she said the surprises meant the family could be happy together one more time.

She said: "We always planned to take Paige to Disneyland before Neil became ill and this was the next best thing. She didn't know a thing about it. She thoroughly enjoyed herself, her face told a million stories."

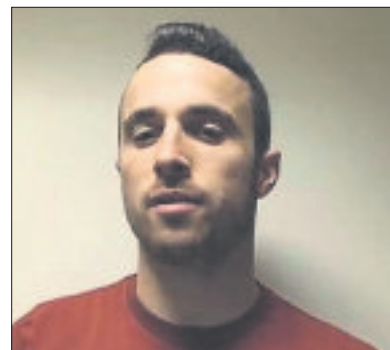
In the video message, the Wolves star said: "Hi Neil, it's Diogo here, you're friends have told me how brave you are being and how proud they are of you so I just wanted to send you a message to say hello and thank you for your support. Keep fighting and give my love to your family."



Neil Mattocks at the Mary Stevens Hospice with his family and the Disney princesses



Surprised Paige meets the Disney princesses



Wolves star Diogo Jota delivers his message to Neil

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Council leader will be in the hot seat

PEOPLE will get the chance to fire questions at the leader of Dudley Council when he takes the hot seat for an hour-long live video broadcast.

Councillor Patrick Harley will be taking questions via Dudley borough's Facebook and promises he will not shy away from contentious issues such as the proposed travellers' site locations.

It is on Wednesday, January 17, from 6pm to 7pm when people will ask questions in the forum. Councillor Harley said: "These are exciting times with the Midland Metro extension and plans for the site of Cavendish House and I want to hear what people think."

### Mayor's winter walking appeal

THE Mayor of Dudley is inviting people to take part in his charity Winter Walk, which starts and finishes at the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge, on January 28.

It will start at 10am and see walkers take in a seven mile round trip at their own pace to the Prestwood area along the canal. It's open to all ages and walkers can bring along their dog.

Councillor Dave Tyler, who is leading the event, said: "All profits will be donated to the his charities. Visit [www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/events-1/mayors-winter-walk/form](http://www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/events-1/mayors-winter-walk/form) to sign up."

### Sing up for chance to join the choir

BUDDING singers are invited to attend a popular Black Country choir's open evening.

Viva Musica is holding the event on January 23 at 7.30pm at Ham Dingle Primary School, Pedmore, Stourbridge.

The choir was formed in 1989 and performs a wide range of music throughout the year. The membership of the choir includes many singers from church choir or amateur theatre backgrounds. Viva Musica presents several major concerts a year plus a traditional Christmas carol concert.

### Marathon run inspired by daughter's care

A HOSPITAL general manager is taking on a marathon challenge to support a hospice which cared for her daughter.

Gloria Kerrigan, 53, from West Midlands Hospital in Halesowen will take part in the London Marathon in April for St Richard's Hospice in Worcester, part of Ramsay Health Care.

Her daughter Laura was cared for at the hospice before she lost her battle with cancer in December 2016.



## CARLTON CARE GROUP



The Carlton Care Group has been providing professional, high quality care services for over 30 years through its award-winning residential care homes across the West Midlands.

Each Care Home comprises a team of qualified, caring professionals who understand that each resident's individual dignity and welfare is paramount. Our Care Homes provide a variety of first class facilities and services and all comply with stringent conditions set by the Care Quality Commission, the independent body that regularly inspects all care homes in England.

Lapal House boasts a licenced bar in a separate room with a cinema style area and a classic car collection for residents to view.

We tailor our care around each resident's needs from the meals they like to activities they enjoy and even their preferred bedtime. Our Carers and support staff form a professional, compassionate team, ensuring life in a Carlton Care Home is fulfilling and full of laughter.

#### Lapal House

Lapal Lane South,  
Halesowen  
West Midlands,  
B62 0ES  
T: 0121 503 0326

#### Beechcroft Residential Home

Salop Drive, Oldbury,  
West Midlands,  
B68 9AG  
T: 0121 429 2993

#### Grange Hill House

516 Bromsgrove Road,  
Hunnington Halesowen,  
West Midlands,  
B62 0JJ  
T: 0121 550 1312

For more information on any of our homes please call us on **0121 550 1312** | [admin@carltoncaregroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@carltoncaregroup.co.uk) | [www.carltoncaregroup.co.uk](http://www.carltoncaregroup.co.uk)



# 4 Rock tributes to Moody's Ray

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, January 11, 2018

THE Moody Blues' Justin Hayward and John Lodge have paid tribute to their former bandmate Ray Thomas, who died, following prostate cancer, at the age of 76.

Hayward said: "Ray was a kind, generous and giving musician and friend and I treasure all the music we made together." Lodge said: "Ray and I have been on this magical journey through life together since we were 14, two kids from a council estate in Erdington who reached for the stars."

Ray Thomas

Thomas, flautist and vocalist in the Birmingham-based band, was born in Stourport-on-Severn on December 29 1941, and started out in blues and soul groups in the 1960s, forming The Moody Blues alongside Mike Pinder, Denny Laine, Graeme Edge and Clint Warwick.

The band's hits include Go Now, Nights In White Satin and Question.

## Violent and abusive passenger is sought

POLICE are on the hunt for a man who made homophobic comments towards a passenger while on a train to Wolverhampton. A 23-year-old man was travelling to the city on December 23, on the 7.03pm service.



The suspect

He went to use the toilet and, while waiting for it to become available, was abused by a man.

CCTV footage showed the same man putting another teenage boy in a headlock, who was also queuing for the toilet. The offender then got off at Wolverhampton but told the station manager he was heading to Shrewsbury.

Anyone who recognises the man in the attached image should contact police. Get in touch by calling British Transport Police on 0800 405040.

# Weight for it! As players are on target for fitness



Man vs Fat organiser Mark Phillips with the ball

IT'S the football league that gives players the chance to score some goals while losing weight.

And now the Man vs Fat players are celebrating after losing around 230kgs in weight.

The calorie burning boys have seen up to 55 players shed weight with their love for the game. The Tipton-based group has just finished a 10-week season.

Fitness trainer and organiser Mark Phillips, aged 39, from Tipton, said: "Since we have started we have lost around 230kgs.



Players in action at one of the sessions which take place every Friday

"It started in September and it is a weight loss league so how it works is they get weighed in each week and whatever they get is a goal or half a goal added to each team.

"It is all about weight loss, it is all about football as well – it is kind of like a Slimming World group but for men.

"It is appealing for a lot of men because obviously, men don't feel comfortable about going to weight watchers and slimming group with a lot of women in.

"It is coming up with an answer for where men actually go to – the common factor to get men involved most time is football."

The men get weighed in and play six-a-side matches with rolling substitutes – so everyone has a chance to rest.

Mr Phillips continued: "I am a coach but I also run a weight loss business myself across the UK, I have done many different things but this is one of the things I really wanted to get interested in and bring into my portfolio.

"It has gone very well, the weight loss has gone extremely well.

"We have WhatsApp groups – the men talk all week about recipes, about supporting each other and what they are going to do to help each other.



On the pitch at RSA Academy in Tipton

"It is a communication system where they have all formed into teams, some very good friendships are forming and they are helping each other overcome weight loss problems.

"It is a great way instead of being isolated on your own.

"A lot of new Man vs Fat groups are popping up across the UK, it is raging all across the UK and there is about 30 to 35 Man vs Fat groups now.

"It is really engaging men's interests and we are just a small part of the Midlands side."

Meetings take place every Friday between 7pm and 9pm at RSA Academy in Tipton.

# STOP PAIN

With our specialist in Acupuncture, Acupressure, Cupping & Ear Candle



### We can help if you

- Suffer with pains in neck, shoulder, elbow, lower back & knee
- Suffer with pain or arthritis, trapped nervous, soft tissue injury & sciatica
- Suffer with pain from swollen joints after operations such as hip replacement and knee replacement
- Suffer with overweight

### We can also help

- Infertile couples to get pregnant with a high success rate through acupuncture and herbs
- Infertile couples improving egg quality and sperm count prior to IVF treatment

Or any symptoms you are not sure of, visit us for a confidential consultation or telephone for an appointment



Tang Herbal Care

UK Registered  
20 Years Experience

Open 10.30 - 5.30  
Monday - Saturday

10B Peckingham Street, Halesowen 0121 585 9393

## BORSHCH

Gas & Electrical Superstore

PEAR TREE LANE, DUDLEY  
DY2 0QU • 01384 571 879

OPEN MON-SAT 9.30AM - 6PM • SUNDAY 10.00AM - 4PM

### Cooking

RANGE COOKERS



FROM ONLY  
£399.99

SINGLE OVENS



FROM ONLY  
£149.99

GAS COOKERS



FROM ONLY  
£179.99

### Laundry

TUMBLE DRYERS



FROM ONLY  
£149.99

DISHWASHERS



FROM ONLY  
£139.99

### Refrigeration

CHEST FREEZERS



FROM ONLY  
£109.99

FRIDGE FREEZERS



FROM ONLY  
£149.99

LARDER FRIDGES



FROM  
£99.99

WASHING MACHINES



FROM ONLY  
£139.99

### Integrated Appliances

INTEGRATED HOBS



FROM ONLY  
£79.99

INTEGRATED WASHING MACHINES



FROM ONLY  
£199.99

INTEGRATED FRIDGE FREEZERS



FROM ONLY  
£179.99

### FREE STANDARD DELIVERY

ON PURCHASES OVER £150.00 WITH THIS VOUCHER  
VALID UNTIL  
SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2018

OTHER BRANCHES IN...

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Upper Trinity Street  
Birmingham B9 4EG  
0121 773 6361

**WALSALL**  
Unit 17-19  
Victorian Arcade WS1 1RE  
01922 279927

**ERDINGTON**  
1-41 Sutton Road  
Erdington B23 6QH  
0121 448 0202

Extended guarantee available • Members of Retra • Pictures for illustration purposes only • Prices subject to availability • Sirius Retailer of the Year 2012



www.borshchelectric.co.uk





## Call to clean and repaint rail stations

A CAMPAIGN group has urged new company and franchise owner West Midlands Railway to 'repaint and deep clean every one of its stations'.

The Stourbridge Line User Group (SLUG) says Stourbridge Line stations are in need of a makeover.

The group adds it will put pressure on West Midlands Rail and West Midlands Railway to see the draft timetables as soon as possible to ensure select services are still included, such as Sunday trains at Hartlebury.

The group said it had established a good working relationship with the new franchise holder, West Midland Trains, which operates under the brand name West Midlands Railway, as well as policy maker, West Midlands Rail.

SLUG chairman William Whiting said: "There have been dramatic developments such as West Midlands Railway and West Midlands Rail making a commitment to a passenger rail link from Stourbridge to Brierley Hill.

"Also, Chiltern Railways has introduced weekend services to and from London Marylebone.

"However, we must not be complacent. Stourbridge Line stations are badly in need of a makeover and we must push for West Midlands Railways' commitment to repaint and deep clean every one of its stations."

## Weighing in with help at Sandwell libraries

A NEW way to help people to monitor their weight has been introduced at libraries in Sandwell. Weigh2GO uses the latest technology to help people to keep track of their weight. The scheme is run by the public health team. Sandwell residents, those with a Sandwell GP and a BMI of 23 and above should call 0800 011 4656 for referral.

# Black Country car cruise ban is extended until 2021

## Zoo staff play annual numbers game

THESE photographs show some of the animals at Dudley Zoo who were helping – and sometimes hindering – staff taking part in an annual count of the zoo's inhabitants.

Meerkats were snapped playing with a small counting board and also keen to pose for the camera during the Castle Hill attraction's annual census was Karu, a ring-tailed lemur, one of five types of lemur at the zoo.

It usually takes a week to complete the count. There are more than 1,600 animals on site covering 260 different species, says curator Richard Brown.

Once staff have a final figure, it will be put into the global Zoological Information Management System which is a global database. Dudley Zoo has a wide variety of animals, with the names of species beginning with 19 different letters of the alphabet.

From Asha the Asiatic lioness to Zeb the black and white ruffed lemur, all animals at Dudley Zoo need to be counted during its annual stocktake.

The audit sees keepers totting up every invertebrate, bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian across the 40-acre site.

Mr Brown said: "We have more than 1,600 animals on site and 260 different species – ranging from great apes to the tiniest medicinal leeches in our Castle Creatures exhibit."

The zoo has announced that, as part of the site's revamp, work on a £250,000 extension of the Sumatran tiger enclosure begins in September.



Nicola Wright from Dudley counts the penguins during the zoo audit

AN injunction banning car cruising in the Black Country has been extended for a further three years by the High Court.

The court order stops people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall – or from promoting, organising or publicising any such event in those areas.

Since it was introduced in 2015, 17 people have been convicted of breaching the injunction, either by taking part in or organising a car cruise, and have received suspended prison sentences, been fined up to £1,000 and ordered to pay court costs.

The four Black Country boroughs, led by Wolverhampton Council and West Midlands Police, successfully sought a continuation of the injunction until February 1, 2021, at the Birmingham District Registry of the High Court yesterday.

His Honour Judge McKenna, sitting as a High Court judge, said: "The measures are reasonable and proportionate and I am content to extend the order for another three years."

### Dangerous

Councillor Paul Sweet, Wolverhampton Council's cabinet member for public health and wellbeing, said: "Car cruising is noisy, dangerous and illegal, causing damage to property and posing a risk of injury – or worse – to participants and the general public alike. It also takes up a lot of valuable time for our hard-pressed emergency services."

"Since its introduction in 2015, the injunction has helped to dramatically reduce the menace of car cruising across the Black Country, eliminating it altogether in certain areas. However, the problem has not been entirely eradicated; car cruises are still being held in our region, sometimes with fatal consequences."

## Write for Rights bid to help prisoners

HALESOWEN Global Justice Group are launching their annual letter writing campaign via Amnesty International to support victims of human rights abuses.

"Write for Rights" will take place at St John the Baptist Church in the centre of Halesowen on Saturday, from 10 until noon.

Chairperson Ernest Crutchley said: "Please come along, we offer a warm welcome and if you can spare 10 minutes to write one letter, that will help a prisoner of conscience, that would be appreciated."

Member Mandy Dobie said: "Last year we sent 130 letters to help prisoners of conscience. We helped out in 12 cases and, since then, three have been released and one had charges against him dropped."

"Others expressed thanks for the support and encouragement they received."

# Starkey Electrical Ltd

Manor House, Manor Lane, Halesowen  
Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Electricians

email: [info@starkeyelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@starkeyelectrical.co.uk)

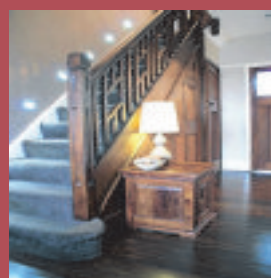
[www.starkeyelectrical.co.uk](http://www.starkeyelectrical.co.uk) 0121 423 3883


## Starkey Electrical would like to wish all of our customers a Happy New Year



**JANUARY  
SPECIAL OFFERS  
ON REWIRES**

- For all your electrical needs in your home, garden, driveway or office/retail premises
- Experienced electricians NICEIC regulated
- Competitive prices/FREE quotations
- Energy saving LED Lighting
- Fuseboard replacements
- Rewiring
- Landlord Certification
- General electrical maintenance
- Supply/install of electric roller shutter garage doors
- Electric heating systems
- Inspection & testing
- Shower upgrades
- CCTV & intruder alarms



Follow us on 

Starkey Electrical Ltd - Your local, energy efficient electrician



IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Protest: It's lettuce leaves at the ready

THINGS aren't looking too good for Carlinis, a new Italian restaurant in Al-brighton, where the chef boasted on Facebook about "spiking" a vegan's meal.

Laura Goodman has now quit, after militant vegans reportedly threatened to target the restaurant. You can always spot militant vegan protesters. They only throw lettuce leaves and lentils.

□□□

THAT said, I now find myself eating more vegan-friendly food than ever before, after being told at one of those routine mid-life health checks that my cholesterol is too high. Not dramatically, but I do need to improve my diet. It seems cream crackers in the morning, bread-and-butter seasoned with a couple of pork scratchings for lunch, and microwaved meatballs and spuds at night won't really cut it any more.

In the past I would have shrugged this off, but a few deaths over the past few years – some close – have made me ponder how fleeting life can be. So I now consume an extortionately-priced health drink each day, as well as five portions of fruit and veg.

Now I've always been a five-a-day sceptic, mainly because I don't like glib soundbites trotted out by the sort of people who think there is a place in the English language for terms such as "stakeholders" and "outreach". And it's time consuming.

The initial plan was to buy an appropriate selection of fruit and veg, and stick it in the blender to make one disgusting drink which I could wolf down once a night and be done with. If only.

Unfortunately, liquefied food can only account for one of the five. So a glass of orange juice seems less bother.

Then there is the question of what constitutes a "portion". Government guidelines say 80g, but I suspect that means as little to you as it does to me.

An apple counts as one, which I can eat while I work, although peeling and slicing it the night before to avoid losing teeth is seriously tedious.

I hoped a large box of chopped swedes and carrots would be the answer, but you have to eat half the packet for it to count as one of the five. No wonder there's an obesity crisis.

So my nights now consist of glugging orange juice while the peas and carrots simmer in the pan. Then, after News at Ten, its time for some fruit – usually strawberries (no sugar) or pineapples – washed down with a bottle of Benecol to make it taste nicer. Can't tell you how much I'm loving life at the moment.

## Interesting phrase, hardly used, and a little bit weird



Kim Jong-un and "I've got a bigger nuclear button than you" contest



Lord Adonis – wants to be free to campaign for a second EU referendum



Hattie Jacques – we get all wistful about some legendary golden nursing age

# Bearing the brunt of this quirky word

QUIRKY phrases department. It was reported this week that coastal areas "bore the brunt" of Storm Eleanor. Interesting word, brunt. Nobody really knows where the word comes from and we hardly ever use it except when something or someone is bearing it. Brunt. The more you say it, the weirder it sounds.

ABOUT 1,400 cars were destroyed in the spectacular car-park fire in Liverpool. I wonder how many insurance different claims will be made.

THE wonder is that such fires are so rare. If you take the gloomy view, a multi-storey car park is basically a pile of petrol bombs parked closely to each other with its sides open to the wind and with ramps helpfully providing a route for an inferno to grow and spread. It sometimes occurs to me that if the internal-combustion engine were invented today, it would never get past the health-and-safety people. So, Mr Inventor, in order to refuel these so-called cars of yours, you will need 100,000-gallon petrol tanks buried in the centre of all our towns and cities, and you will park these cars in thousands of high-rise crematoria? Not a chance.

IT is hard to rejoice at the 70th anniversary of the NHS when we have spent the past seven decades moaning that it has never been as good as it used to be. We get all wistful about some legendary golden age, usually involving tightly-folded bedsheets, carbolic and Hattie Jacques. The big difference between 1948 and 2018 is the nature of patients and their illnesses. Seventy years ago the sick were, by and large, ill as a result of things done to them by the establishment. They were the wounded and shell-shocked of two world wars, the victims of

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



damp slums, dangerous factories, dusty coal mines and malnutrition. They were the hapless customers who believed the all-pervading propaganda that smoking was not only fashionable but good for you. Today, NHS waiting lists are stuffed with people who are bombarded with healthy-living advice but prefer to ignore it and are ill as a result of lifestyle choices. And while it may be wrong to ration or refuse NHS treatment to those who have screwed up their own health, you can't help thinking what the hungry, bronchitic, war-wounded patients of 1948 would make of the obese, hungover patients of today. They might well ask: "What are you doing in the queue?"

ONE of my New Year resolutions is to be kinder to the generation usually described as millennials, hipsters or snowflakes. But I'm putting it on hold for a while, having stumbled across a report on an assortment of twentysomethings moaning about how they cannot afford to get on the property ladder. One is described as "a part-time writer and illustrator" while another says she is a "marketing and lifestyle blogger." Listen, kids. These are not jobs. They are, at best, hobbies. This explains why the building society manager's eyes do not light up when he gets your mortgage-application form. Get a proper, full-time job, put in all the overtime you can, save a few grand and try again.

ONE of the enduring mysteries of the internet age is that people who are already online will

email or text about an issue without first making an elementary check on Google. For those who harangued me on the subject, there is nothing blasphemous, lazy or ungrammatical about the term Xmas.

OH, dear. Donald Trump has got into an "I've got a bigger nuclear button than you" contest with Kim Jong-un. Whatever next?

MEANWHILE, it is revealed that thousands of medical emergencies are being answered not by paramedics but by specially-trained firefighters. "Hello, is that 999? I've got this burning sensation."

ADONIS wants to be free to campaign for a second EU referendum. He thinks remaining in the EU is a good idea. Mind you, he also thinks HS2 is a good idea. His solution to Britain's transport problem is to pour thousands more commuters into London each day by driving a new railway 100 yards wide through some of the most beautiful English countryside, demolishing properties and farms and blighting thousands of homes. And to what end? To cut 20 minutes off the time from London to Brum. The Adonis cure for our housing shortage is equally brutal, to concrete over half of southern England, plonking a million new homes in a vast arc from Oxford to Cambridge. He is one of those people who is entirely driven by the notion of 'growth', who genuinely cannot understand that most of us would rather spend 20 minutes longer on the train than rip up a single ancient forest. The 'growth' brigade's only strategy is to lay more concrete, erect more buildings and allow Britain's population to grow to 80 or 100 million. There has to be a better way.

## TALKING POINT



# Companies are never really at our service

IT baffles me why these departments are called Customer Service as that seems to be the last thing they do. I called recently regarding a delivery I was expecting – to replace a damaged item. This was due to be picked up and a new one delivered.

I had called once to report the item as damaged. Twenty minutes later after trying to get to the appropriate department and listening to irritating music while the girl with the annoying voice said "Your call is important to us, we appreciate your patience etc, etc", I hung up.

Companies are always very careful to say your call is being recorded. Is that just in case you hurl abuse down the phone?

Anyway, when I had a bit more time I tried again. Eventually after going through the list of options, none of which suited my query – option 3 then option 5 and back to option 2, aagh! – I opted for the sales line, knowing that would be the one most likely to be answered. Five minutes later I actually spoke to a PERSON! She told me it wasn't really the correct department but she would put me through to the right one. I begged her "Please don't let me be holding on for so long" and she assured me I would be put straight through. I still had to wait five minutes!

Finally the annoying music – played so loud you have to hold the phone away from your ear – stopped and a woman answered. I gave her my order number, name, address, postcode etc and she tracked me down on the computer. She was very sorry and a replacement would be sent and the damaged one picked up.

The following week, I received a text saying one company would collect my damaged parcel but no mention of delivering the new one. Back on the phone – this was a drawer unit for the bedroom and, having removed the old one, I was fed up of piles of clothes all over the floor.

Again I was passed around only to be told the new one would be delivered by another company. Delivery day came and went but no replacement item, although the old one had gone from the car port.

Next morning at 8.05, minutes after the department opened, I rang to complain. I explained that nothing had arrived. They claimed they had tried to deliver it but no-one was in so they left a card. Rubbish! My son and two builders were there and no card was put through the door.

But don't worry, it would arrive and I would get something as a 'goodwill' gesture. Eventually it did turn up, dumped by the front door in full view of the street. Goodwill gesture? You guessed it – nothing – but then again I would have been happy to just sort out the problem at my first attempt. Customer service? You must be joking!

SUE ATTWATER

## ASHWOOD NURSERIES

NURSERY | TEA ROOM | GIFT SHOP | GARDEN CENTRE



**Hellebore Tours**  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January & Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
10.15am to 2.30pm | Duration approx 60mins | £2.50 each

**John's Garden Charity Open Day at Ashwood Nurseries**  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February | 10am-4pm | £5 entrance

All proceeds donated to our charity of the year 2018  
WINGS | Wombourne Special Needs Support Group  
For further information please call us or visit our website

**WWW.ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM**

Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE | 01384 401996  
Winter Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 8.30am – 5pm & Sundays: 9am – 5pm

## BETTA BUILDINGS

### SHEDS • GARAGES • GARDEN ROOMS • LOG CABINS

#### The Dalbury Garden Room



Free Laminate Flooring & External Paint  
Prices start from **£2495**

#### Wooden Sheds

HUGE RANGE



A huge range in stock from **£274**

#### Summer Houses

FREE FITTING



A huge range in stock from **£599**

#### Concrete Garages

FREE FITTING



A huge range in stock from **£1657**

- Old Buildings Removed
- Asbestos Disposal
- Base Laying Service
- Free Quotations
- Made to Measure
- Lined and Insulated Options
- Quality at Competitive Prices
- Huge Range

Show site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street, West Bromwich B70 9SJ (Next to Staples)

Visit our website: [www.bettabuildings.co.uk](http://www.bettabuildings.co.uk)

Call us now: 0121 553 4682





# Velodrome is needed in time for games

THE bid by the City of Birmingham to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games within Birmingham has been successful, this will be a great boost for the development of sport, as well as business, within the West Midlands.

Youngsters from poor backgrounds who often do not get the chance to travel outside the area to either participate or watch sports events, will benefit by having some of the best athletes in many sports competing on their doorstep. Many people of all ages and backgrounds will be inspired to take up sport for either competition, leisure or fitness. New sports stadia (swimming pool) or improved existing stadia (Alexander Park) will leave a lasting legacy.

The West Midlands has produced many very fine track riders over the years including, four time world champion and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Hugh Porter, MBE; the late Tommy Godwin; the late Trevor Bull; Trevor Gadd; Jess Varnish and Helen Scott, MBE, to name but a few. Many of those riders would have trained and raced on the outdoor track, Salford Park, Birmingham, which was very sadly demolished in the 1990s without being replaced.

Many supporters of cycle sport within the West Midlands are understandably very concerned that, due to the lack of a modern 250m indoor velodrome within Birmingham, the track cycling may be held many miles from Birmingham.

The nearest (outdoor) banked cycle track, Manor Abbey, Halesowen, was built in 1948; whilst this track is great for developing grass roots cycling, the days of staging world class track racing have long gone.

The five indoor velodromes existing within the UK work. They produce champion riders and make a huge impact on participation levels within their region. I would urge all those with the power and influence to ensure a new indoor velodrome is built within Birmingham.

**DAVID VINER**  
Halesowen A&CC Chair Cycling

## So this is how you get a gong

IT appears that a new qualification has been included on the crony list for political gongs.

1. You must be a total failure. Nick Clegg qualifies under this heading in that he managed to reduce Lib Dem seats at Westminster by 49 and lose his own seat.

2. You must take on a high office at Westminster, let's say Deputy PM, and for five years do nothing of any note. Once more Nick qualifies.

3. You must have the ability to lie through your back teeth. Excellent. Nick fulfils this e.g. 'We will scrap tuition fees'.

4. You must frustrate the democratic will of the largest number of voters ever recorded.

Got it in spades Nick. I might just give it a try folks. Sir Alan Etheridge has a certain ring to it.

**ALAN M ETHERIDGE**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

#### Code of Practice:

Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a



story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Sleigh support thank you

THE Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who gave so generously during our annual Santa Sleigh tour.

To all of the grown-ups and children, who came out to meet Santa, we hope you had a very Happy Christmas. During our travels we collected £7,020, which will be distributed to local charities at a presentation evening to be held at the Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on January 22.

We would also like to thank the management of Sainsbury's Amblecote, Aldi Wollaston and Morrison's Kingswinford, for allowing us to collect during December. Money will go to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and charities of their choice.

**STEVE RICE**  
Sleigh Master  
Kingswinford &  
Stourbridge Lions Club

## Fed up of all the car park charge moaners

I am sick and tired of ranting about hospital car parking charges. Nowhere in this country now can you leave your car for free. Hospitals like City are in built-up areas and doing away with charges will not make parking at the hospital easier - locals will just use it as a dumping ground for their vehicles and people going to work in Birmingham will leave their cars and get a bus. People moan about paying a few quid to park but how about the thousands wasted every day by people who don't turn up for appointments.

**HELENA CAMWELL**  
Tividale

# HagleyKitchens

Beautiful Kitchens, Bathrooms and Bedrooms, designed with imagination and fitted with care



## "A really handsome Kitchen..."

...beautiful Bosch appliances and a super 'Boiling-water Tap' completed on time without any problems at all" **Pauline Burgess, Droitwich**

"Hagley Kitchens took care of everything in our fantastically designed modern kitchen... Graham and his team made everything simple." **Pam & Steve Hughes, Rowley Regis**

"Graham gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." **Danni & Martin Walters, Hasbury**



"Hagley Kitchens created the kitchen we have always dreamed of, and his team completed the installation and tiling to a perfect finish... Thank You." **Wayne & Julie, Wordsley**

"Nothing was too much trouble" **Doreen Coley - Hayley Green**

**Guaranteed unbeatable on price**

[www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk](http://www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk)

**INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING**

# HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.

QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE

## WONDERFUL WINTER OFFERS

- Your NEW windows will sparkle this Winter
- It's the Best Time of Year to Fit New Windows!

**INLITEN FRONT DOOR**

in WHITE

From Only

**£550**

...Including fitting!

**INLITEN BACK DOOR**

in WHITE

From Only

**£490**

...Including fitting!

**6 FLAT WINDOWS & 2 DOORS**

From Only

**£2999**

...Including fitting AND VAT!

## Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed

**Call for further details**  
**0121 421 7001**

## FASCIAS SOFFITS GUTTERING

- Your local well established business offering top quality products and service
- No payment until completion
- Call us now for a great deal on your new windows and doors
- Visit our showroom
- Deal direct with the owner

It **HAS** to be **HASBURY**



## HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.

QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE

#### SHOWROOM OPEN:

Mon-Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat - 10.00am - 1.00pm

PHONELINES OPEN: 9.00am - 9.00pm

9 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9AA  
Telephone: **0121 421 7001** • **0121 421 2104**

**TRADE ENQUIRES WELCOME**

**FENSA**  
Registered 30179

**"We will Beat ANY Genuine Written Quote"**





# SEASONAL SAVINGS

## Call us now



- Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
- Yale Locking Systems
- Swish Window & Door Systems
- Payment On Completion
- Full 10 Year Guarantee
- No Deposit Required

**Make the right choice for your new windows, conservatories, orangeries and porches.**  
 Carera do not use high pressure salesmen, it has had the same owner since it opened in 1989. Call them now for your **FREE** no obligation quotations. Our visit takes approximately 20-30 minutes  
 Visit our large beautiful showroom with all products on display for a warm welcome



**Proud to have worked with**



**WINDOWS · DOORS · PORCHES · ORANGERIES · CONSERVATORIES**



24, Junction Rd, Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4YJ

Telephone: **01384 442 490**

**[www.carerawindows.co.uk](http://www.carerawindows.co.uk)**





# Riddle of 'Bella' murder is now set for the stage

IT has been the subject of a TV documentary, play, book, songs, numerous newspaper articles and endless intrigue.

Now the story of an unsolved local murder involving the discovery of a skull is headed for the London stage.

It was 75 years ago that four teenage boys looking for birds' eggs on Lord Cobham's Hagley Hall estate found the human skull, still with hair and teeth attached, in a hollowed-out Wych Elm tree.

The lads returned to their homes in the Wollescote area of Stourbridge, worried they would get into trouble for poaching but the youngest of them, Tom Willetts, found the secret too hard to keep and told his parents.

Police were called and found the near-complete skeleton of a young woman, believed to have been strangled around 18 months earlier, inside the tree. In nearby fields they found her severed hand.



The Wych Elm in Hagley Woods, scene of the gruesome discovery



James Drayton is bringing the spooky local wartime mystery to the stage

## Obelisk

Afterwards, graffiti posing the cryptic question 'who put Bella down the Wych Elm' began appearing on walls around the West Midlands, most famously on the Hagley obelisk. But the riddle of both the woman's identity and that of her killer have continued to confound police and armchair detectives alike.

The mystery brought comedian Steve Punt to the Express & Star in Wolverhampton when he launched his own investigation for his BBC Radio 4 series Punt PI, looking into the involvement of journalist Wilfred Byford-Jones, whose coverage in the '50s opened up new lines of inquiry.

They mystery has also inspired several musical compositions including a musical staged around a decade ago.

Theatre director Tom Drayton, 26, who teaches at Worcester University, is the latest to show an interest in the enigma which has spawned wide-ranging theories about who Bella was and why she was murdered.

His production is due to open at The Space Theatre in London in March and potentially move to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. He is also in talks with Midland theatres about bringing the story 'home' before the end of the year.

Mr Drayton, said: "There's been a surge in interest in real crime stories and it's something we'd been exploring. The fact that this murder remains unsolved is another factor. It's really elemental: a skeleton inside a tree found by four boys during the Second World War. It sets you thinking."

Various theories include that 'Bella' was the victim of a ritual murder using witchcraft, that she may have been a Nazi spy or a murdered Birmingham prostitute. Mr Drayton added: "This story takes us from spies in Birmingham to singers in Berlin. It's so much more than a myth."

## YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

### YOUR ARMCHAIR GUIDE TO A NEW BATHROOM



- **DECISION**  
Phone us for a No Obligation Quote (Daytime / Evenings or Weekends)
- **QUOTATION**  
Design/Planning & Materials & Suite all chosen in your home & on the spot price given.
- **INSTALLATION**  
The Job is started & completed in around 5 days & left clean & tidy with all rubbish removed
- **INSPECTION**  
Everything is thoroughly checked with yourself at the end of the job to your satisfaction.
- **COMPLETION**  
Only when you are delighted with the finished job, do we accept your final balance.
- **RECOMMENDATION**  
We hope YOUR CHOICE will be your friends choice

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED**

### EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3950.00

- 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle • Tiled Floor with low level tray
- Replacement Shower
- 15 SQM Wall Tiles • New Basin & WC

**EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS**

### DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in & out of your bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle & Tiled inside.

Supply a new replacement shower  
A Folding Seat & Grab Rail

**ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00**

**VAT FREE**  
IN  
QUALIFYING CASES

**FOR FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE AND A WARM WELCOME PHONE US NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE SURVEY**

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive,

Kingswinford DY6 7SH

**01384 287222**

Showroom also at: 39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield,

Wolverhampton WV11 1TW



**01902 861908**

**SHOWROOM OPEN**

9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

[www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk](http://www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk)

Quality Clothes for the family

**Lancers**  
ESTABLISHED 1880

**OVER 50% OFF**  
selected items,  
Come in and  
grab a bargain  
today

**SALE NOW ON**

*Bargains galore in all departments*

**Peckingham Street, Halesowen 0121 550 1237**

**Spectacles At Factory Direct Prices**

NHS & PRIVATE EYETESTS AVAILABLE

Just bring along your prescription or book your eye test with us.

Prescription Spectacles Distance or Reading

**From only £14.95**

Complete with stock single vision lenses.

**The SpectacleWorks**

4 Birmingham St, Halesowen B63 3HN **0121 550 3345**

Next door to Benjamin's Banqueting Suite

Open Mon - Fri  
9am - 4pm  
Closed Bank  
Holidays

NHS Spectacle  
Vouchers  
Welcome

**SHIRLEY AQUATICS**

**IS NOW AT BECKETTS FARM**

**Alcester Road, Wythall, B47 6AJ**

Sale prices on  
selected aquariums



Buy 2 & get a 3rd free on Aquarium  
Foods excluding Frozen & Live Food

Buy 2 & get a 3rd free on Aquarium,  
Marine & Pond Treatments

Buy 2 & get a 3rd free on pond food  
excluding Hikari food

**10% OFF Pond Filters & Pumps**

**New koi & pond fish section opening in March 2018**



0121 744 1300

Mon - Sat 9am-6pm

[www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk](http://www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk)

Sun - 10am-4pm





# Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing too little, too late to protect their hard-earned assets.



Paul King, Head of April King Legal

## 1. Care Cost Fees

A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the local authority to help pay for these services. This goes back to the Community Care Act 1990, which came into force in 1993. If someone requires social care in later life, the local authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the local authority will take over the fees.

Paul knows this all too well, after experiencing this personally. "My own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her.

When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate were counted in the local authority's means test.

Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the local authority get it all?'

Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 – and that's all that her children inherited."

There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this. The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true.

Local authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving yourself away, going back over any period in time.

Sometimes people think if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe.

This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not local authority care.

The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place.

Paul continues: "What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills.

If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would have only been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe.

Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?

The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning.

It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain a further important point. Most clients he sees are surprised to learn that remarriage usually cancels a will and makes the new spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children!

Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

It's another important reason for home-owning couples to upgrade to a Property Trust Will.

## 2. Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard "mirror wills" with other firms before approaching the firm. A mirror will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a mirror will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the local authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children.

Even if my children are named in my mirror will it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything.

Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin. This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit.

The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a mirror will. If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance.

Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work!

I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has. Bloodline trusts will give greater protection to your children."

Paul continues: "These things can be avoided by having a bloodline trusts will. Under these types of wills your children have complete control

and access to the inheritance they receive from you but give added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life. The wording in these wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

## 3. Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a will that deals with their estate on death, and a lasting power of attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

The lasting power of attorney is a relatively new introduction and is divided into two parts – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare. In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise. It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they receive care. Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times. You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available.

Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a lasting power of attorney document

Having a lasting power of attorney removes the burden on children should ill-health happen further down the line. It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death. Crucially, you have to complete a lasting power of attorney while they are still in good mental health.

If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for an order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process. It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family.

Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly where there are children or a business involved. It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us.

People think 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a power of attorney?'

But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance. Paul adds: "The next part is to appoint the attorneys, your children. Don't forget, your children can be the executors of your will and attorneys as well. The lasting power of attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it. Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."



**FREE INFORMATION PACK**  
To receive your free, no obligation info pack  
visit [aprilking.co.uk](http://aprilking.co.uk) or call us on

**01384 886101**

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

April King has 29 offices across the Midlands.

Your local office is: King Charles House, Castle Hill, Dudley, DY1 4PS





Get expert advice from trusted professionals at Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Limited

# Window firm with a wealth of experience

**Investing in new windows and doors or a conservatory is a huge commitment, so it is vital to get expert advice from trusted professionals.**

Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Limited have a wealth of experience and will spend time with you, thoroughly discussing your options.

Offering a 10-year insurance backed guarantee, they will never ask for a deposit or stage payments – with customers only paying after the installation is complete.

And after they've left you to enjoy your new purchase, they won't just walk off into the

sunset. In the unlikely event of something going wrong with your windows, doors or conservatory you'll be fully covered for after care with your guarantee.

The company, which is based in Halesowen, can also assist with repairs and maintenance problems with your current windows, doors and conservatories regardless of who originally fitted them.

These are people who definitely know what they're doing!

And, if you're scratching your head for ideas on how to fund your new project, they can

give you some help. A company spokesman said: "A Barclays Home Improvement Account offers you the ideal way to fund your home improvement."

Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Ltd's products are fabricated 'in house', utilising their own specialist PVCu manufacturing plant. The company has over 30 years experience, and are a major supplier of quality PVCu installations of windows, doors, conservatories, porches, orangeries and fascia and soffit boards throughout the West Midlands.

"All installations are fully supervised from

initial design through to final installation by expert Rydale operatives," added the company spokesman.

The team of expert fitters have a wealth of experience and are recommended for their polite, courteous and tidy approach.

Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Ltd is Certass registered and Fair Trades and No Rogue Traders Here approved.

In addition the company is fully compliant with Document L Building Regulations.

"Our approach ensures a consistently high level of quality control and also allows our

customers to achieve considerable savings by buying direct," added their company spokesman.

Their A rated windows, which reduce heat loss by more than 20 per cent, are fitted as standard and can save over £250 off your heating bill in the first year alone.

At Rydale Windows they take security very seriously. "All of our doors and windows are fitted with high security multi point locks."

For further information contact Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Limited on 0800 917 6060 or visit [www.rydalewindows.co.uk](http://www.rydalewindows.co.uk)

**Make the RIGHT decision this Winter and give RYDALE a ring...**

# RYDALE WINTER SALE



**Cleaning Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways cleaning available.**

**Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards**



**Order a conservatory or full house of windows and you will get a full cleaning service on your guttering or windows or conservatory or drive totally FREE.**

**No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed**

**Visit one of the largest conservatory and window showrooms in the UK**

**Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands**

**Repair Service Available**



**Guardian Warm Roof**



Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round



Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.



## MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON JANUARY INSTALLATIONS

**FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 [www.rydalewindows.co.uk](http://www.rydalewindows.co.uk) Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS**

**Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm  
Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed**



# Mayor says dirty old diesels must be taxed off the streets

**METRO Mayor Andy Street has revised the idea of a West Midlands congestion charge to combat pollution from older 'dirty' diesel vehicles**

He was speaking as latest auto industry figures revealed a slump in demand for diesel cars last year.

The idea of a London-style congestion charge has been proposed several times for Birmingham and the Black Country, but has proved highly unpopular with the public.

## Homebuilder heaven at NEC show

THE National Homebuilding & Renovating Show returns to the NEC Birmingham in March.

The four-day event, from March 22 to 25, will feature more than 500 exhibitors and 16 free daily seminars and masterclasses.

Guests such as Julia Kendall, interior design expert for BBC's DIY SOS The Build and ITV's 60 Minute Makeover, and Charlie Luxton from Channel 4's Best Laid Plans, will also be there to offer inspiration.

The show is also a marketplace for the latest products and services. Standard tickets are £12 in advance or £18 on the door, with children under 16 free.

For further information visit [www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/national](http://www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/national) or call the ticket hotline on 0844 854 0503.

West Midlands Mayor Mr Street flagged up the rapid growth in demand for electric vehicles and said the whole industry could be seen moving towards more electric and hybrid options. "My own prediction is that this will grow very rapidly," he said, adding he was determined the West Midlands would be the centre for this new industry.

### Modern

He said the region was drawing up plans under the Government's Clean Air strategy to tax heavily polluting older diesel vehicles – including commercial vehicles – 'off the roads' of the region's towns and cities.

He said removing all diesel cars was 'too simplistic', adding: "New modern diesels are relatively clean. Huge progress has been made in improving diesel combustion engines. What we do need to think about is how are we going to move the most polluting old diesels off our streets because the really damaging issue is the nitrogen oxide pollutants."

He also wanted to see a Government-funded scrappage scheme for older diesels, plus more funding to expand public transport.

In November's Budget, Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a tax hike on new diesel cars from April 1.

## Fundraising Gurcharan is an inspiration



Gurcharan Bedi has raised money for Action Heart and Macmillan, here presenting £677.50 to Action Heart's Angelina Skolariki

HE has been fundraising for 15 years and helped countless charities.

And once again selfless Gurcharan Bedi has stepped up to the plate to raise more than £1,000 for two organisations.

Both Dudley-based Action Heart and Macmillan received £677 each following the sale of raffle tickets – something Mr Bedi has done year on year to help good causes.

The 75-year-old, from Briery Hill,

said: "My wife died in 2008 with cancer, so I started selling raffle tickets. This year I chose Action Heart and Macmillan – I do different charities every year.

"I'm very happy if I help somebody."

Daughter-in-law Lisa Bedi, 40, from Wombourne, said: "We are all very proud of all of his achievements.

"Ever since my mother-in-law passed away he has done it every single year.

"He is pretty determined to keep her memory alive really, he is doing it in her honour. He will carry on."

It follows his efforts last year where he managed to raise £1,000 in memory of his wife Surjeet Kaur Bedi, who died from breast cancer ten years ago.

He then donated £500 for Action Heart and £500 for The Leukaemia Unit Appeal based at Russells Hall Hospital.

## Young actors will get chance to show talent

A SEARCH for undiscovered acting talent starts when the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain heads to Birmingham in February to offer auditions.

Successful applicants will join a celebrated company of talented individuals, following in the footsteps of various alumni such as Helen Mirren, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Daniel Craig, Matt Smith and Birmingham's own Sope Dirisu, title role star of the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2017 production of Coriolanus.

Last year 13 young people from Birmingham earned a place with the NYT following successful auditions from a record 5,798 young people who auditioned at more than 40 venues around the UK.

This year acting auditions will take place at MAC Birmingham on February 24 and 25 and backstage interviews will take place at The Old Rep Theatre on February 17 and 18.

Paddington star Hugh Bonneville, who is a National Youth Theatre patron and alumnus, said: "I loved meeting this year's National Youth Theatre REP Company recently after watching their terrific, visceral production of Othello in the West End.

"I'd encourage any young person looking to find an outlet for their talent to sign up for an audition."

## Entire Ale back on tap after 20 years

A BLACK Country ale has been revived by an independent brewer after more than 20 years.

Entire Ale was brewed by the Holt, Plant and Deakin company at Langley and later at Wolverhampton between 1984 and 1996. Now Andy Brough, from Broughs Brewery, Wolverhampton, is recreating the 4.4 per cent ale.

# STAND OUT FROM YOUR RIVALS

Advertise your business on the **Express & Star** website  
[www.expressandstar.com](http://www.expressandstar.com)



To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

**MNA DIGITAL**









## 14 Hawthorn pub firm in award hope

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, January 11, 2018

A MIDLANDS pub company is in the running for a top award. Hawthorn Leisure, which manages 300 pubs and is based in Marston Green, Birmingham, have been shortlisted as the UK's best Pub Company just three years since they were formed.

In the Publican Morning Advertiser's category of Leased & Tenanted Pub Company, Hawthorn Leisure is up against three family brewers and pub companies who have between them been running for five hundred years.

Chief executive Gerry Carroll said: "We founded the company on a strong ethos of partnership, working with our tenants to change the way pub landlords and tenants work together."

"We have made huge strides in shaping the way pub companies should be run and are hugely proud of the relationships our business managers have formed with our fantastic pub partners who run great community pubs. As a result, we have saved many pubs across the UK that other companies had previously written off, that is contributing to overturning the trend of pub closures."

The company employs 50 people at head office in Birmingham.

## Drink-drive arrest as car stops on tracks

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving after a car was found stopped on train tracks.

Police were called after the Vauxhall was spotted stranded on the tracks near a level crossing on Crosswells Road, Langley. British Transport Police confirmed a 50-year-old man from Oldbury was arrested on suspicion of drink driving on New Year's Day, with a call coming into police at 11.58pm. The driver was later released while the police investigation continues.

# Lorry driver who hit man on crossing is spared jail

## Jazzlines announce new run of shows



The Andy Hamilton Centenary Celebration is on March 25

A CELEBRATION in memory of one of Birmingham's greatest musicians, an appearance by David Bowie's drummer and concerts featuring some of the best contemporary female bandleaders are among the highlights of Jazzlines' Winter/Spring 2018 programme.

Jazzlines is a unique programme of creative jazz music and talent development initiatives based within Performances Birmingham Limited (PBL), the charity that runs Town Hall and Symphony Hall.

Kicking things off on January 25, My Iris is the latest ensemble project from saxophonist, Trish Clowes at Eastside Jazz Club, Birmingham's newest jazz venue.

On February 7, multi-award-winning vocalist Zara McFarlane explores British-Jamaican identity with her heady combination of jazz, reggae, calypso and more at Kings Heath's Hare and Hounds.

The Andy Hamilton Centenary Celebration on March 25 at Town Hall celebrates the life of the legendary jazz musician Andy Hamilton MBE. Born in Jamaica, the tenor saxophonist formed his first band in 1928 before moving to the UK in 1949. Settling in Birmingham, he eventually became a major figure in the city's vibrant music scene. Much missed, Andy passed away in 2012, though his influence continues.

For more information, see: [www.thsh.co.uk/jazzlines](http://www.thsh.co.uk/jazzlines)

A LORRY driver, who struck a pedestrian on a crossing in Brierley Hill, has been spared jail.

The collision happened in broad daylight as Lloyd Southall – at the wheel of a vehicle carrying 17 tons of steel – was distracted by a car horn, a judge was told at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The driver veered to his right but was unable to avoid 23-year-old Matthew Bloomer who was crossing the dual carriageway after traffic lights gave pedestrians right of way. Mr Nigel Stelling, prosecuting, said the HGV was travelling on Pedmore Road at less than 30mph in a 40mph zone and had slowed to 19mph.

Mr Bloomer suffered devastating injuries including multiple fractures. He was in an induced coma for three weeks.

## Red

A police expert concluded that Southall's driving during the day up to the accident had been 'exemplary,' said Miss Samantha Powis, defending the 40-year-old father-of-two from Dudley. She added: "A lack of attention lasting four seconds had disastrous consequences. He can only attribute this to being distracted by the sound of the car horn."

Southall, of Brierley Hill Road, of previous good character, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He lost his job after the accident but found work as a labourer.

Judge Amjad Nawaz concluded: "There can be no achievement in sending somebody who had an unblemished driving record but for a few seconds of inattention into immediate custody." Southall was given a ten month jail sentence suspended for two years, 100 hours unpaid work and a bill for £200 costs. He was banned from driving for two years.

## City gin bar's sales up 60pc at Christmas

A BOUTIQUE gin bar in Birmingham had its most successful Christmas period yet with a 60 per cent rise in sales from the year before.

Called 40 St Pauls, it stocks more than 140 different gins, and in the lead-up to Christmas launched a new festive-themed drink, a hot chocolate gin and tonic.

Based in Cox Street, the owners of 40 St Pauls generated further revenue from private hire corporate and family events held at their premises – with almost every day in December booked up. The demand for private hire corporate and family events has seen revenue from its events arm grow from five per cent to more than 30 per cent over the festive period.

First-time business owner Aman-jot Johl opened the bar in December 2015, after noticing trendy gin was becoming increasingly popular.

**CELEBRATING SUCCESS**



## Express & Star BUSINESS AWARDS

**Sponsors**



**Associate sponsors**



**WANT TO RAISE  
THE PROFILE  
OF YOUR COMPANY?**

**ENTER THE  
REGION'S PREMIER  
BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Check out the categories:**

- Best Use of Technology
- Business Person of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Community Champion
- Family Business of the Year
- Growth & Innovation Award
- Manufacturing Champion
- Micro Business of the Year
- Small to Medium Sized Business of the Year
- Tradesperson of the Year
- Young Business of the Year

**For details go to [businessawards.expressandstar.com](http://businessawards.expressandstar.com)**

# Most ads are legal, decent, honest and truthful.

In 2016, the ASA removed 4,824 that weren't.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority





## Brierley Hill canal death inquest opens

AN INQUEST into the death of a man whose body was discovered in the canal at Brierley Hill has been opened. Simon Smith was found dead in the Dudley No1 Canal near Brierley Hill's Meeting Lane Industrial Estate on December 27.

The 50-year-old was reported missing after failing to return to his home on December 3, Black Country Coroner's Court was told on Monday.

Mr Smith, of Yorke Avenue, Brierley Hill, was found in the water near to a footpath which was part of his regular route home.

### Drowning

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said that the preliminary cause of death was drowning.

West Midlands Police launched an appeal to find Mr Smith, who was born in Stourbridge, after family and friends became extremely worried about his safety when he failed to return home.

The inquest has been adjourned and will resume on February 15.

## Beauty and Beast say be our guest



Lee Ralph and Gemma Mills in Beauty and the Beast

AUDIENCE can enjoy a magical 'tale as old as time' when a new panto version of Beauty and the Beast hits the stage.

The pantomime, presented by Startime Variety, will run at the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen from Wednesday (January 17) to January 20. Publicity officer and member of the chorus, Jeanette Greenway, said the original script had been written by 20-year-old Holly Mills.

She said: "We do a panto every year, and have been for the last 50 years. We did Beauty and the Beast back in 2004, where my son Neil was actually the Beast, but it's a completely new script this time. It was written by our writer and producer, Holly.

"There are even some original new roles such as Boone, Garçon, Hickory Dickory, Bobbin, Papa and a narrator, all made up by Holly. There's singing and dancing and plenty of laughter - it's a panto that should not be missed."

Curtains go up at 7.15pm with a matinee show on Saturday at 2.15pm. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £9 for concessions. A family ticket for two adults with two children is £35. Go to startimevariety.co.uk or call 07901 055685.

## Trainees smashed £3k charity target

TRAINEES at a law firm in the Black Country smashed their £3,000 charity target for 2017 with a last-minute flurry of festive fundraisers.

The first and second year trainees at Higgs & Sons, at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, raised £3,105 over the course of 2017 through a variety of events, with all money going to the firm's charity, the NSPCC.

Higgs will soon be announcing the total raised for the children's charity later this month along with their 2018 nominated charity.

In December, the delighted trainees topped off their total with £392 from a Christmas jumper day, bake sale and tombola. Other events throughout the year included a Tree of Happiness, baby photos quiz and £1,269 raised via sponsorship of the Tough Mudder challenge.

Katy Boyce, treasurer of the trainee's fundraising team, said: "We are delighted."

# Minister toughens measures to stop dangerous laser pens

**TIGHTER checks will be introduced in a bid to stop the import of powerful laser pens blamed for an upsurge in dangerous incidents involving passenger aircraft.**

The Civil Aviation Authority reported more than 1,200 incidents in which lasers were aimed at aircraft

making their approach to British airports in 2017.

It is feared such an incident could lead to disastrous consequences should a pilot be temporarily blinded while in the cockpit.

Many of the incidents are thought to involve powerful lasers which are brought in from overseas.

Ministers have now said additional support will be offered to port and

border officials in order to help identify and confiscate the high powered lasers.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said: "The Government has listened to concerns from pilots, health professionals and safety experts, which is why we are going further than ever before to crack down on the sale of unsafe devices."

## Santa Run brings in £12,000 for hospice

AN annual Santa run in Stourbridge raised £12,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice. Hundreds donned their red suits and Santa hats to brave the heavy rain and cold to run through Mary Stevens Park in aid of the facility.

A hospice spokesman said: "It was muddy, it was messy and it was absolutely amazing, and we honestly cannot tell you how grateful we are to everyone who came and to everyone who made it possible."

Those taking part ran three laps of the park, a half-lap and sprint finish.

Stourbridge Fire Station, the Tenth Lock Pub, the Rotary Club of Kinver and Dudley-based Mommy's Mascots More were amongst those in the Manor Vets sponsored event.

**WE'RE OPEN...**  
Thursday 11th January  
10am - 8pm  
**FOR LATE NIGHT SHOPPING!**

WINTER  
**Sale**

**EXTRA DISCOUNT & OPENING SALE OFFERS  
END SUNDAY 5pm!**

**EXTRA discount**  
off our already low **SALE PRICES**

**Just for the start of our Winter Sale...**  
**EXTRA discount & special opening offers**  
plus, a pay nothing until 2019,  
low deposit, interest free credit option!\*

Alstons  
bardi  
BUOYANT  
Harrison  
HTL  
KINGSTOWN  
Lebus  
rauch  
R&S  
Silentnight



Essentials Lille  
Elegant distressed  
French Oak & stone  
painted finish collection

**INTRODUCTORY OFFER**  
Range Starts From Only  
**£175**



Antigua Collection  
Corner group  
including stool & scatters  
WAS £1149 SALE ~~£899~~

**EXTRA discount price**  
**£749** SAVE **£400**



Assembly service available.

Laguna Collection  
3 door robe in  
Sonoma oak finish  
WAS £399  
SALE ~~£299~~

**EXTRA discount price**  
**£199** SAVE **£200**



**WILLIAM & SONS** [www.williamandsons.co.uk](http://www.williamandsons.co.uk)

Level Street, Merry Hill, Dudley West Midlands DY5 1UA T. 01384 77444

### OPENING TIMES:

Monday - Friday 10-5.30pm

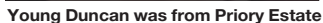
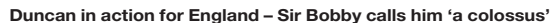
**THURSDAY LATE NIGHT 10-8pm**

Saturday 10-6pm

Sunday 11-5pm

0% APR Representative \*Low deposit Deferred Interest Free Credit option available on all orders over £500. All balances must be paid in full by the end of the first twelve months after delivery or collection as highlighted at the time of purchase. Written details available on request. Credit is subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Price Match Promise Terms & Conditions apply. Ask in store or see our website for further details. All offers subject to availability & E&OE.





**FROM Black Country boy to Red Devil – a new exhibition celebrating the life and footballing career of Duncan Edwards has opened in Dudley.**

The exhibition, which opened yes-

Duncan, who grew up on Priory Estate, played 180 games for Manchester United, England and The Army. He helped Manchester United

Items in the exhibition include programmes, as well as photographs from his playing days for United.

Duncan's best pal, Sir Bobby Charlton shared the same digs in Manchester and during National Service near Shrewsbury they travelled together on the train every Friday

Sir Bobby said: "Duncan was the complete footballer – a colossus, powerful with his heading ability

powerful with his heading ability and unbreakable in the tackle. He would rampage tirelessly across the pitch, had a perfect first touch and was deadly in front of goal."

Sir Bobby, who was pulled from the burning wreckage of the aircraft, has never forgotten those who perished at Munich Airport in February

1958. He said: "Almost 60 years have passed since I last saw Duncan when I left hospital in Munich and I still think of him almost every day."

"I am very pleased to be part of this tribute in Dudley that will pay homage to the memory of my friend, teammate and the greatest footballer I have ever seen."

Admission to the exhibition, which runs until March 30, is free and all items will remain at the centre after it ends.

**THE** new bosses of a market have vowed to restore it to its former glory in 2018.

Promises have been made to bring in more stallholders, upgrade the 1920s building, stage seasonal events and create a community hub at Brierley Hill Market.

Plans are also in the pipeline to revamp the former upstairs part of the market hall with the aim of holding record fairs or fashion stalls.

Wayne Jones, from agents Jennings Homer and Lynch Ltd, said the market was going from strength to strength.

He explained: "There are plans in place to upgrade the market and we have reduced the rent on some of the stalls in there."

"We still have a handful of stalls left and expect about 10 or 15 new traders to join us by the end of spring to get us full.

"One of our ideas is to have a community meeting point in the market. It is in its early days at the minute but we would like a surgery where people could drop in and meet MPs or local police support officers.

"We want to make it a real hub for the community."

"There will be a focus on redecorating the hall too. We redecorated a couple of traditional stalls and we want to add a new disabled toilet and baby-changing facilities.

**BIRMINGHAM** Horror Group is set to host its second annual Mini-Movie Marathon for charity.

The event, in aid of the charity Diabetes UK, is being held at the Victoria pub on John Bright Street and has already attracted spine-chilling submissions from film-makers from as far afield as India, Brazil, Australia and the Russian Federation – as well as the Midlands.

Birmingham Horror Group's Mini-Movie Marathon will be held at Victoria Public House on January 28. Tickets cost £3.

# GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

**Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market**

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014



# Demi's charity trust gets support from NCIS star

A TV actor has given his support to a charity launched in memory of a promising student who died in a horror crash on the M6.

NCIS actor Duane Henry, who is a former Dudley College student, is supporting the DEMI Trust, set up by the family of Demi Nicholson, who lived in Winson Green.

The star, who is originally from Birmingham, knew Demi when growing up in the city.

Demi, aged 21, was a promising law student and in the final year at Liverpool Hope University when she was killed on the northbound carriageway of the M6, near Wednesbury, last year when her Vauxhall Corsa was involved in a collision with a BMW.

A special ball at Villa Park, promoting the charity, which will support students from low-income families, sold out with more than 300 people attending.

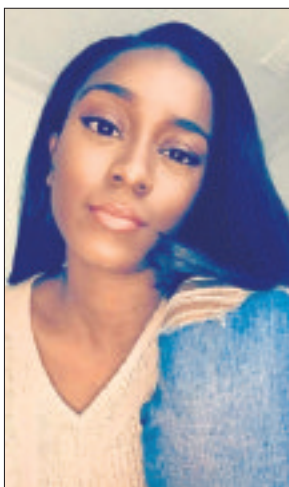
## Neighbourhood

The event, which was held on Saturday and completely sold out, received a further boost with the star of the popular crime drama pledging to send merchandise from NCIS to help build the fundraising total.

Henry filmed a message promised his support for the charity, in which he said: "I'd like to talk about a cause that is very close to people in Birmingham and close to myself."

"A young lady who I happened to know in an area where I grew up, her name was Demi Nicholson."

"She tragically passed away. She was studying at uni, we, everyone in the neighbourhood, have come together with an idea of giving starter packs to under-privileged children in



**Demi Nicholson – the popular law student died in a car accident**

the area to help them out with school supplies.

"If I can help, I will help by sending in some merchandise from the NCIS show; scripts and memorabilia to give for a fundraiser."

"If you guys would like to get involved just type in DEMI Trust and you'll get all the information you need."

More than 1,000 people attended the funeral of the popular student to pay their final respects.

Demi's mother, Novlet Nicholson, and aunts Wendy Nicholson and Valerie George, set up the DEMI Trust



**Duane Henry – the actor knew Demi and wants to help the charity in her name**

– which stands for Dream Enormous Make an Impact – to ensure her name lives on.

For further information about the charity go to demitrust.org.uk or search for the trust on Facebook.

Duane plays British intelligence officer Clayton Reeves in the hit TV series. He has also starred in UK TV shows including Doctor Who and Midlands-set drama Doctors.

He began his acting career in London before heading to Hollywood, where he won the role of the British agent.

**ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKISTS OF CARPET IN THE COUNTRY**

Over 200 Part Rolls

**ALL LESS 50%**

At STD we have the best fitters and we are NEVER undercut on price

	Was sq yd	Now sq yd
Apollo .....	£9.95	£7.95
Majesty bleach cleanable.....	£13.95	£9.95
Sensations Heathers.....	£16.95	£12.95
Waterproof bathroom carpet....	£18.95	£8.36
Contract wilton .....	£18.95	£8.95

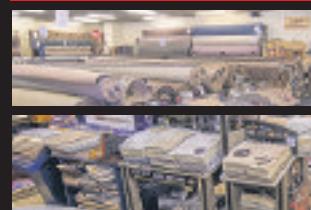
Plus many more great offers

Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30  
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00 Closed Wednesdays

Church Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3PT  
**TELEPHONE: 01384 76448**  
www.stdcarpets.com

**STD  
carpets**

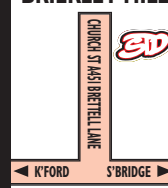
**SALE NOW  
ON**



**OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK**  
9.00 to 5.30;  
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00;  
Closed Wednesdays

**10% OFF**  
All end rolls with  
this voucher

**BRIERLEY HILL**



**SOFA  
SHOWROOM**

**GENUINE  
CLOSING DOWN**  
**THIS IS NOT A REFURBISHMENT - RETIREMENT SALE**  
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED, EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD BEFORE OUR DOORS CLOSE

**Quality Sofas & Chairs**

Antemis 3 Seater, 2 Chairs, 1 Chair  
Made to the highest specification  
Was £2000 **Now £1400**

**Don't Miss Out**

Ritz Sofa & 2 Chairs **£899**

Brooklyn 2 Seater Sofa and 2 Chairs ..... **£399**  
Ashley 3 Seater Sofa and 2 Recliner Chairs..... **£699**  
Kent Club Chair ..... **£199**  
Rio Sofa and 2 Chairs ..... **NOW £899**  
Recliner Chair ..... **ONE ONLY £199**

**Reo Sofa** **£399**

**Queen Anne Chair** **£199**

**Roma Sofa & 2 Chairs** **Save £300** **Now £899**

**Chair with Stool** **£199**

**Lamps**

**Pictures**

**Lights**

**MON - SAT 10AM - 4PM**

**Sofa Style** your local furniture store in Stourbridge

Chatsworth House, Hayes Lane, Lye, Nr Stourbridge DY9 8RD

**01384 892 018 www.sofastyleupholstery.co.uk**



Himley Hall and Park  
**Civil Wedding**  
Ceremonies and Receptions

**WEDDINGS OPEN DAY**

Sunday 21 January 2018, 11am-4pm

Delightful reception rooms for your wedding celebration. 3 elegant rooms for civil wedding & partnership ceremonies, licensed for up to 75 guests. Superb celebration menus from 3 course fully inclusive dinners (45-90 persons) to high quality buffet receptions (80-140 persons)



To receive your complimentary wedding pack contact our Wedding Co-Ordinator. Call 01384 817817 or visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk or email himleyhall@dudley.gov.uk



Himley Hall & Park, Himley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4DF



# Vintage dogs seek home with no need for walkies

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



THE message at this time of year for anyone receiving a puppy as a gift is 'A Dog is for Life – not just for Christmas' and this should be heeded by everyone – animals are not to be treated as presents that can be returned once the recipient gets tired of them.

However, there are some dogs available this festive season who won't need much looking after and are proving very popular with the gift hunters – they are the vintage collectable models made by Sylvac!

Sylvac models were very much sought after in their heyday (the thirties, forties and fifties) but were not so in more recent years.

However, they are making their way back onto the antiques centres' shelves and catching the eye of collectors.

Sylvac has been in business since the Victorian era but it was in the 1930s that their animal figurines really caught the public eye.

Dogs and rabbits were the best sellers, along with some rather evil looking cats, and many breeds of dogs were replicated in model form.



The models were made in various colours, green and orange being the most memorable although you can find the occasional pink-glazed dog!

There is a good deal of Sylvac around but that doesn't mean it isn't collectable, prices are very reasonable and there is definitely an increasing market for these pieces.

And of course there are many other dog figures to choose from as festive gifts if you're buying for a dog lover, also look out for those made by Royal Doulton, Beswick and Staffordshire.

So you CAN give a loving home to a dog this Christmas – just make sure it's a model unless you're buying a real one for keeps!

The Old Mill Antiques Centre, in Mill Street, Low Town, Bridgnorth, is open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm.

There is free parking for customers.

# Themes used to celebrate the big occasions



Themed – a tartan Christmas table

CHRISTMAS is over, decorations are down and packed neatly into boxes ready for next year's celebrations.

I seem to have an extra box every year, new candles, contemporary decorations, additional lights and baubles. Incredible really, more money spent every season.

We theme our Christmas day, in 2016 it was 1920s gold and black, this last one was tartan, so the newest box is filled with Royal Stewart bunting, Mackintosh ribbons, a stag's head and more.

Looking on my Facebook feed this process is not unusual, the shops were full of cushion covers, table decorations, crockery and bedding in varied ideas and concepts to get your creativity going, festive knitwear and matching family outfits incredibly popular for all.

It isn't just Christmas, I'm sure New Year's Eve arrangements are also organised by theme and I know Easter, stag and hen parties, baby showers and weddings are harmonised by an idea or style.

These themes cost, every detail is an expense and there is no end of buyers ready to spend, even those on a tight budget.

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



It is a modern-day concept, our homes co-ordinate by colour, tone and highlight and we change them as the newest trends feature on the high street.

This coming spring pretty, jewelled intense brights and iridescent, pearlized metallic are the order of the day, old English library, fonts and letter artwork, travel and culture, brickwork and upcycling everything.

Pantone have announced their colour of the year as ultra violet, described as a celestial shade of purple. Expect to see it in our homes and on our clothes and accessories and it may even feature on your Christmas tree in December.

We will see pretty, outdoor florals and hand drawn prints on our garments, rusty art and bright vegetation greens teamed with subtle neutrals.

Basic design will no longer be popular, new

shapes, sculptural design and unusual pattern cutting will be seen in most garments and the trend towards genderless style will continue and grow.

Hair will be dripping locks of Rapunzel's waves, slicked back with a centre parting or chopped boyish cuts and dyed to shades of soft pink, headpieces galore.

Lips red or hot pink, accentuated cheekbones, smudged lids and eyes black and scattered with a glittery finish.

The new year brings all these current, fashionable concepts, endless resolutions, a newly planned life, a thrill for what is ahead.

There is so much on offer to us both informative, thought provoking and material that our personalities positively glow with the new possibilities before us.

The excitement of the festive season is over for another year and 2018 has arrived.

Be positive, happy and enjoy everything that is new and exciting.

Visit [www.jflflexclusive.com](http://www.jflflexclusive.com),  
[www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk](http://www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk)  
Follow: [jflifeandloves on tumblr](https://www.tumblr.com/jflifeandloves)



Experts suggest slurping down six to eight glasses of water daily



A good night's sleep will replenish your body – so turn off your mobile phone

# Reclaim body and mind after festive excesses



Too much wine can cause a puffy face

**FEELING bloated, broke and battered by the festive party season? Join the club... Christmas is well and truly over – and now all there is to look forward to is a cold, dark and dry January.**

But you don't need to battle through the first painful weeks of 2018 with an unshakeable hangover. We asked some health experts for their top tips for a January refresh.

Here's how to reclaim your body and mind after the festive excess...

### Say goodbye to wine face

Waking up with a puffy face and dark circles under your eyes from too many glasses of vino was likely a familiar sight in December. Now that party season is over, it can take time for our skin to recover from excess wine and fizz. "Alcohol affects your skin in many ways," says dermatologist Dr Justine Hextall from The Harley Street Medical Group. "Keeping hydrated and applying an antioxidant eye serum will help with noticeable eye bags," she advises.

For a cheaper and more holistic approach, nutritionist Christine Bailey suggests loading up on lunchtime watermelon to give skin a January boost. "Like berries,

By Anna Williamson

watermelon is a fabulous source of potent antioxidants," she says.

### Banish the bloat

You've devoured the mince pies and gobled too much turkey. It was fun at the time, but now you've started to resemble Father Christmas with a festive bloated belly. Rob Hobson, head of nutrition at Healthspan, explains: "A poor diet can mess with the balance of bacteria in your gut, which can cause bloating." He suggests sipping on mint tea after eating. Not only does it ease digestion, but it will relax the gut wall and relieve excess gas.

### Invest in your emotional wellbeing

Being cooped up in close quarters with family, with mountains of washing up and too much booze on the go, can get pretty stressful at the best of times. When January comes around, your emotional health may need as much of a boost as your body. Healthspan psychologist, Dr Meg Arroll, believes that at the start of the year, is important to take some time out for you. "The festive period can leave you mentally and emotionally drained. Engage in activities such as diaphragmatic breathing, yoga, Tai Chi, meditation and mindfulness to combat a chronic stress state."

### Give your gut flora a boost

You've beaten the bloat, so now it's time to give your gut a boost and keep your microbiome in check. "Too much stress and too many late nights can put your gut bacteria out of balance, which can lead to reduced immunity and make you more susceptible to winter bugs," says Helen Bond, a dietitian from ProVen Probiotics. She suggests improving your microflora by eating fermented foods such as kimchi, sauerkraut, and fermented milk drinks like kefir.

### Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

You might be undertaking dry January, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't keep a glass beside you all day. "Drinking alcohol dehydrates your body, causing your kidneys to send water straight to your bladder, instead of being absorbed into the body," says Dr Anshu Bhagat. Christine recommends counteracting this by slurping down six to eight glasses of water daily.

### Get some Zzzs

Between work parties, festive drinks and train journeys to far-flung relatives, there isn't much time for replenishing shut-eye. "Try a cup of warm Montmorency cherry juice before bed to help you wind down for a long night's sleep," says Christine. "The juice contains one of the few food sources of melatonin – our sleep hormone."



# Piano man looks for key to success

19

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, January 11, 2018



James in action performing his own music



James's celebrity fans include Sir Tom Jones

**IT'S a cliché but there's something truthful in the old saying attributed to Theodore Roosevelt: 'nothing worth having comes easy'.**

Just ask James Sayer. Like countless musicians he started with a dream. To be a world-renowned artist. He's got talent in his piano-playing fingertips. It has led to being noticed by the likes of Sir Tom Jones, Mumford & Sons' producer Matt Lawrence and The Doobie Brothers' Michael McDonald.

That's why James put faith in himself and his music by upping sticks from Halesowen and moving to the Big Smoke to chase that dream.

"I've been lucky in London," says the 29-year-old former Windsor High School and King Edward VI College in Stourbridge pupil. "I work most nights. It's still pretty tough, but I get to go all around the world and it has been amazing."

He is a full-time musician. He can count recording sessions, gigs, private parties and functions, touring band slots and being one of the resident piano players at the capital's swanky Savoy Hotel among his income streams. It is a nomadic lifestyle, and one that is not aligned to plentiful sleep.

"I'm unsigned so I pump everything in to supporting myself," he adds. "It means you've

Playing piano at a top London hotel has won Halesowen's James Sayer some famous fans

got to want it really bad. It was tough at first, but now I am lucky enough to live in a nicer area in north London.

"I am lucky enough to work full-time and all that money goes on rent or recording my own music. I was doing a private party last night for example and I didn't get back until 4.30am this morning."

"But it's rewarding and a great feeling, I am doing what I want and it makes it easier."

Unfortunately for James, success in London does mean that he gets to see his friends and family less often. But despite living among the bright lights he hasn't forgotten his roots. When he does get the chance to play in the Midlands he does, and he has a show lined up at Jools Holland's Jam House in Birmingham on Thursday, February 8.

## Comparisons

"It's nice to be able to play there," he admits. "I try and get back every six weeks or so now but it's not always possible. Hopefully all my family and friends will be piling in and it will be good to see them."

Fusing elements of blues, folk and rock in his music, playing such venues inevitably leads to comparisons with Jools himself. But that's not something James minds.

"I've been compared to him and that's fine because I love him," he laughs.

"I haven't been able to meet him yet but a couple of his musicians have played with me before and said they enjoyed it."

"I also love Van Morrison and obviously Elton John as a piano player. I also love Billy Joel's timeless music and the old soul of Ray Charles."

"There's also Michael McDonald from the band The Doobie Brothers. I've got to know him and he is in my opinion the greatest singer ever."

That's quite a claim, especially as another of the vocal greats who spotted him playing at The Savoy and asked for his details was a certain Sir Tom Jones. After a while one of his entourage approached James. "He asked for my number and said Sir Tom liked my playing style and wanted to know more about me. We exchanged details and I am hoping we can get some work done together in the near future."

Hopefully that might lead to some more international work for James, who already has some globe-trotting under his belt.

He was previously spotted by American group Ruen Brothers and played with them in 2015 at Radio 1's Big Weekend in Norwich before the huge American festivals Austin



**Hard-working musician James Sayer has impressed with his piano skills** City Limits in Texas and Coachella, in Indio, California.

He has also had some successful shows further south in Brazil, where they 'love their blues and metal', while also getting plenty of airplay in Holland.

"It's been a real journey and something I am enjoying," he adds. And looking forward, he says: "I would one day love to sell out Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London and do so by playing the style of music that I love."

"That is still achievable and I am being realistic about my aims. There are so many talented musicians down here and I am not being too unreasonable."

"I also still love my blues and soul but realise there's not much

room in the mainstream for that at the moment."

"I'd love to be out there selling out bigger venues, that is the end goal."

"To be as big as I can possibly be," he adds.

Now he has a new single coming out. Called Givin' It All For Free it will be available on all the major streaming services, such as Spotify, Deezer and YouTube.

James can also be found online to hear his material and follow his updates. He can be followed on Twitter @JamesSayerMusic or on his website at [www.jamessayermusic.com/](http://www.jamessayermusic.com/) or his Soundcloud channel at <https://soundcloud.com/jamessayermusic>

LEIGH SANDERS

**Aston's**  
Auctioneers & Valuers

**\* Specialist Auctioneers of Rare Collectables \***

**\* The only NAVA accredited chattels auctioneers in the Midlands \***

**\* As seen on various TV programmes including Flog It \***



**JANUARY STAR LOT.....**

**Film & Music Memorabilia  
Auction 18th Jan - Lot 289:**

The Beatles - Please Please Me  
1st pressing PCS 3042 Stereo,  
black & gold Parlophone label  
**Estimate £2000 - £3000**



**FREE VALUATION DAYS in Dudley**

Every Wednesday 10am to 4pm - Free Parking & Free Tea/Coffee

Aston's Auctioneers, Baylies Hall, Tower Street, Dudley DY1 1NB

Our experts are here to value your items - we have high demand at auction for:



- \* Antique and Modern Jewellery and Wrist and Pocket Watches.
- \* Gold and Silver Coins, pre 1943 Coins, old Bank Notes.
- \* Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox Toys, Star Wars Figures, any other old toys..
- \* Hornby & other Model Railways and Model Kits inc. Airfix.
- \* Film & Music Memorabilia inc. Cinema Posters & Vinyl Records.
- \* Comic Books including Marvel, DC, Batman, Spider-Man etc.
- \* Cameras, Lenses & Photographic Equipment inc. Leica & Nikon.

**January Auctions**

**Tuesday 16th January at 10am  
Toy & Model Railway Auction**  
including the Lisbon Collection of  
Minichamps Motorsport Models

**Thursday 18th January at 10am  
Film & Music Memorabilia Auction**  
inc. Film Posters, Vinyl Records & Comics.  
PLUS a collection of West Brom Albion FC  
Memorabilia inc. Player-worn shirts.

**February Sneak-Preview - featured lot:**



Rolex Explorer II  
"Steve McQueen"  
Ref 1655.  
Circa 1975/6  
Estimate  
£7000 - £10,000

**www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk**

**01384 931001**



# Here's how to better yourself in the New Year

IT'S that time of year again, when things start to feel a bit like Groundhog Day.

Everyone seems to be asking about New Year's resolutions, and 99 per cent of the answers are, "exercising more," "doing dry January" or "eating healthily."

And frankly, we're just a bit bored of it all. If you are making positive changes that's wonderful, but if you're making these pledges just because a) it's that time of year and you feel like you have to, or b) you think you need to be skinnier, then we don't really think it's worth your time.

If you do want to make a resolution this year, why not go a off the beaten track? These are a selection of our favourite ideas for bettering yourself in the new year.

And don't worry, there's not a gym membership or stick of celery in sight.

## 1. Join a book club

Sure, you could set yourself the target of reading a new book every month, but what are the chances of you sticking diligently to this as the year goes on?

If you join a book club you'll be far more likely to keep up your resolution. Not only will you have the peer pressure of needing to read the book before the next get together, but it's addictive - you'll soon be hooked and desperate to give your thoughts on what you've read.

Nowadays book clubs aren't quite like the one your grandma is part of. You'll gossip about the world just as much as you'll indulge in stimulating conversation about what you've read - it's the perfect combination of socialising and learning new things.

## 2. Learn a language

OK, OK, you might have set yourself this resolution a few years ago, but it never quite panned out, did it?

But 2018 really is your time to shine, and it's all about making a plan. Download a language app like Duolingo which calls for you to complete a quiz every day, making sure that you keep your learning ticking along.

January needn't be all about detoxing and depriving yourself of the good stuff. Why not book yourself a trip to the country you're learning the language of? It'll be a fun treat.

## 3. Recycle everything you can

You're probably well aware of how important recycling is, but cast your mind back to 2017. How many times did you not bother to recycle something just because it was a bit too much effort?

Probably more than once.

So make it your resolution for this to stop in 2018 because, as you already know, it's what the planet desperately needs.

## 4. Start sitting up straight

As you're reading this, what's your posture like? Let us guess: your rounded shoulders are slouched over your desk or smartphone.

If you don't want to be the cliched gym-going January person, one thing you can work on instead is your posture. Not only is this a sneaky hack for looking like you've got your life together, but it will also take care of your joints, ligaments and muscles, and help prevent damage further down the line.

It's also more than just physical - good posture can change your frame of mind, making you feel more positive and confident in yourself.

## 5. Play more board games

What's this? A resolution that's actually fun? Yep, that's right.

Playing board games is not only a great way to get your friends together and have a laugh, but there's a whole bunch of options that can test your brain in different ways, from logic to strategy and general knowledge.

Luckily, board games are becoming somewhat of a craze with dedicated cafes popping up all over, so it's easier than ever to start playing more this year.

## 6. Cut yourself some slack

New Year's resolutions are hard. They tend to be based around aesthetics, which can be tough to handle in our already hyper-superficial society.

That's why we propose that if you are going to make resolutions, make one of them another cliché (but a much more positive one) - being kinder to yourself.



If you want to get really fit take up martial arts training



Live streaming classes mean you can work out wherever you are

# Check out hottest new fitness trends for 2018

By Liz Connor

**FOR those who went a little too hard on the merriment, the fitness industry is always on the lookout for interesting and quirky new ways to help keep us in shape.**

And with more of us living a Lycra-clad lifestyle than ever before, there are plenty of novel ways to shake up your workout routines once the New Year rolls in.

Here are the ones to have on your radar...

## DNA testing

Unfairly, your genetic makeup might be hindering you from torching the same amount of calories in a gruelling HIIT class as your neighbour, who's blessed with a superior ancestry. Thankfully, there are sneaky ways to even the playing field next year. Through DNA testing, fitness fans can get a detailed breakdown of their macro and micronutrient needs, as well as handy hints for tailoring your approach to exercise so that you're working out in a way that best suits your body. These types of programmes used to be the reserve of top athletes, but now at-home kits like DNAFit and FitnessGenes are bringing the method to the masses. Simply swab your saliva, post it off, and wait for the experts to send back their insights.

## Live streaming classes

The trend for working out in your living room isn't going anywhere next year. While we've been punching and kicking in front of YouTube for years, expect to see a live broadcasting element dominate in 2018. If you're a digital nomad that can't commit to the same weekly classes and sessions, you'll soon be able to take part in interactive, live classes with top trainers from anywhere in the world.

## Competitive fitness

You might not have fallen out with your friends over who can do a better handstand since school, but a swathe of new classes will prove that your pals can inspire just the right sort of shallow and fervid motivation to push you further in the gym. Anyone who's worked out with a contemporary will know that having a rival can drive you into picking up a larger kettlebell, spinning your legs faster on a bike, or holding a plank for 30 seconds longer.

## VersaClimber

Looking not too dissimilar from a Victorian torture device, VersaClimbers are set to be the new method of punishing your core into tighter and sculpted ideals. It basically utilises the same natural cardio movement as rock climbing, but without having to worry about falling to your death. According to experts, the machine - which is a near-vertical rail with pedals and handles - burns more fat than treadmills, ellipticals,



Strength training looks like being one of the biggest trends for 2018 - for women as well as men



Competitive fitness can inspire you to greater feats in the gym



Rest and recovery is becoming increasingly important

stepper and bike. It's also low-impact, giving runners' joints a much-needed rest from pounding the pavements.

## Strength training

If you're firmly in camp 'strong not skinny', you'll be pleased to know that Pinterest's 2018 forecast picked out strength training as one of the biggies for next year, optimistically claiming that exercise is moving away from size to strength. Instead of squatting and spinning to hit a goal weight, we'll all lifting barbells to build a healthy amount of muscle. Thanks to female celebrity fans like Megan Fox, Millie Mackintosh and Khloe Kardashian, the weights area will truly be a gender neutral utopia next

year - with the focus is not on losing weight, but gaining brawn.

## Combat sports

Want an impossibly toned midsection like a Victoria's Secret model? Then you'll need to get into the competitive spirit and take on a combat sport. Boxing ruled the roost last year, but 2018 will see a progression into martial arts disciplines and kickboxing.

## Mermaiding

Ever wanted to be a mermaid? Well, now you actually can - in fact, according to experts, you can also get a six-pack at the same time. Dubbed 'mermaiding', the slightly bonkers trend for donning a fish-tail and performing aerobic exercises in a

swimming pool took off in Colorado last year - and has already started causing slight ripples in the UK.

## Rest and recovery

Yes, you heard correctly. Rest is going to be a big fitness trend next year. Most trainers know that getting enough recovery time after workouts is essential for achieving high-level performance, and the same is true of the average gym-goer. That's why this year will see a shift to advanced recovery plans. If you're bending, flexing and crunching, it's time to take things down a notch and pack in some decent recovery time, to reduce the risk of injury and allow you to perform for better and longer.



# One 'L' of a driving test wait finally over



Retired support worker Tony Jones celebrates finally passing his driving test with his instructor Mark Evans

A CANCELLATION and a worried wait of four weeks saw him fail his first driving test in 1972.

But over 45 years later – and after more than 100 hours in lessons – Anthony Jones from Netherton has passed his driving test at the second attempt.

The 65-year-old retired support worker was 'over the moon' when he found out he had passed at the Lower Gornal driving test centre.

Mr Jones, 65, from Netherton, said:

"I'm very pleased. This is my second test, the first one was in 1972 and I failed then.

## Married

"Me and my wife then decided to get married and buy a house – money gets tight. It is something I have always wanted to do but something I have never been able to afford to do.

"We have had to manage with public transport but there's more fun driving.

"I should have gone for it on Valentines day in 1972 and it was foggy. It got cancelled.

"I'm just really over the moon. If I had not have passed I would have gone in for it again. I had over 100 hours of two-hour lessons."

"I have been waiting for it long enough and I have no intention of being a boy racer. My wife is very happy, she was more nervous than I was." Mr Jones is now planning to buy his first car.

## Baboon baby joins family at the zoo



Addis proudly shows off her newborn arrival Dendi, who was born just before Christmas at Dudley Zoo. KEEPERs have another mouth to feed at Dudley Zoo following the birth of Dendi, a gelada baboon.

The youngster is the second baby for 11-year-old Addis, who is also mum to three-year-old Billie. They are part of the Baboons on the Bank group.

Visitors can already spot the little one closely tucked up to mother in their award-winning half-acre natural hillside enclosure on the lower zoo site, which is home to father, Ebano, aged 13, females Jimma and Tana and youngsters Ambo and Gimbi.

Primate Keeper, Jade Reddall, said: "We're delighted that the latest addition to our Baboons on the Bank arrived just in time to be officially counted in this year's census.

"Addis is an experienced mum and is doing a fantastic job with her newborn. She is also making sure her eldest son, Billie, isn't feeling left out either with the baby, as we've spotted her giving him plenty of cuddles too."

# Man who pestered his ex is jailed again

A DUDLEY man who would not leave his former partner alone, despite having started a fresh relationship with a woman who had his child, has been jailed.

Thomas Vry, of Brook Street, bombarded his ex with text messages and calls after their eight year relationship, during which they had two children, had ended.

In September 2016 he was convicted of harassment and banned from making contact with her. Nine days later the 25-year-old broke the terms of a restraining order by going to her home and making threats against her new partner, said Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting.

He was arrested and bailed but struck again within days. He called at her home and place of work, sent more texts and even followed her car. He was given a suspended jail sentence and new restraining order in November 2016, which he broke the following March by banging on her door to issue more threats.

Vry was jailed but, while on licence following his release, broke the order

By John Scott

on two further occasions. She said in a victim impact statement: "He has a new relationship and a new baby but constantly harasses me. I just want a chance to get on with the rest of my life."

Mr Anthony Bell, defending, said: "The offending is becoming less serious."

Dudley admitted breaking the terms of the order and was jailed for a year by Judge John Wait, who told him: "You constantly pester your former partner in a way that frightens her. This has an awful effect on her and your children.

"You want your own relationship away from her but will not let her go. You want to have your cake and eat it."

Birmingham  
Dogs  
Home

**WANTED**

Abandoned faithful companion seeks loving new home. Happy disposition despite neglect. Just wants to give love and be loved.

Please call  
**0121 643 5211**

We have many dogs desperate for new homes. Please feel free to visit our centre or log onto our website.  
**www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk**

If you cannot rehome you can help us with donations or sponsorship  
Catherine-De-Barnes Lane, Catherine-De-Barnes, Solihull. B62 0DJ

**WEAR SPECS?**

WE CAN SAVE YOU MONEY!

**COMPLETE GLASSES**

from only **£19.99**

**PLUS**

**VARIFOCALS**

from only **£45**

extra!

**GET FREE SCRATCH RESISTANT LENSES WITH THIS ADVERT**

**YOUR LOCAL STORE**

**HALESOWEN**

36 Douglas Road  
Rowley Regis  
B62 9HX

Tel: 0121 5614940

**Direct Specs**

**WHERE SPECS COST LESS**

T&C's apply. FREE scratch-resistant lenses available on any of our frames with this ad. Photocopies and photographs of the ad are also accepted. Only 1 redemption per customer.



# YOUR LOCAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

**Express & Star**

Shropshire  
**STAR**

**jobs**.expressandstar.com

**jobs**.shropshirestar.com

## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US...



MNA Recruitment specialise in fixed price recruitment solutions for businesses within the West Midlands. Brought to you by MNA Media, the publisher of the region's biggest selling newspapers Express & Star and Shropshire Star, our expert recruitment team have an unrivalled knowledge of local recruitment within the West Midlands.

## AFFORDABLE RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS



We firmly believe that finding the right candidate for your business shouldn't cost the earth. We're completely up front about our fees, and are proud to offer affordable recruitment solutions to suit your budget. Our experienced team take the time to tailor a package to find your ideal candidate. The price we agree with you is exactly what you pay, no hidden fees.

## LOCAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST



As part of Britain's largest independent regional news company, MNA Recruitment draw upon a heritage of supporting local businesses in finding the right candidate for more than 140 years. Today, our mix of print, digital and agency solutions allow us to offer the complete recruitment solution for your business.

## FIND THE IDEAL CANDIDATE



Whilst we pride ourselves on offering affordable recruitment solutions, we don't scrimp on quality. With access to the latest technology, our team provide high quality candidate screening, ensuring we find you the ideal candidate to fill your vacancy.

## DEDICATED ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT



For us, customer service is a top priority. We provide all of our customers with a dedicated account manager, who will tailor a recruitment package to suit your budget and find you quality candidates. You will also receive regular performance reports, allowing you to analyse and track candidates.

## NOT JUST A RECRUITMENT AGENCY



At MNA Recruitment, we believe that our role doesn't stop when the vacancy is filled. Our expert team can offer your business additional services to support all your employment needs. We provide affordable HR services, training and development programmes for you and your staff.

# Find your ideal candidate with MNA Recruitment



# MNA Recruitment

51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES  
t: 01902 319645

e: [sales@mna-recruitment.co.uk](mailto:sales@mna-recruitment.co.uk)

**Star Employment**  
services

**STARHR**  
EXPERT HR ADVICE WITH FLEXIBLE PACKAGES

**SMART**  
SEARCH

**EIGHT OUT OF TEN  
LOCAL COMPANIES  
FILL THEIR VACANCY  
FIRST TIME WITH  
OUR CAMPAIGNS**



**CHOOSE FROM  
OVER 50,000  
LOCAL JOBS  
TO FIND YOUR  
IDEAL ROLE**



**JOIN OVER 2000  
LOCAL BUSINESSES  
WHO SUCCESSFULLY  
RECRUIT WITH US  
EVERY YEAR**



**Call 01902 319645 or visit: [www.mna-recruitment.co.uk](http://www.mna-recruitment.co.uk)**



# Thieves cash in as more beehives are being stolen



Alison Wakeman of ABC, who says hives can be worth up to £500

**BEEKEEPERS believe fellow professionals must be behind the increasing theft of hives across the region.**

Thieves have been cashing in on the increasingly lucrative hobby of beekeeping by snatching entire hives – worth hundreds of pounds in some cases.

New figures show that hundreds of thousands of bees have been taken from apiaries across England and Wales since 2011 – with West Mercia Police receiving the joint-highest number of reports.

Since 2011, a total of 14 beehives have been stolen across the force area.

Telford-based beekeeper Alison Wakeman, who runs Alison's Bee Class and uses her bees as an educational tool, said a good colony of bees can be worth more than £500.

"I've only been aware of one incident in the last couple of years but beehive thefts do happen," she said. "The worst thing about it is it's got to be other beekeepers. You've got to know what you're doing."

"You need to have the correct equipment. It's got to be people that know what they're doing. If a normal person went to a beehive



Bees are lucrative for criminals

**Report by Tom Oakley**

and went to steal a hive they're likely to pick up the wrong piece then the bees are likely to come out.

"In terms of value, if I was asked how much one of mine cost – with a good colony in the summer it would be around £500.

"The equipment itself and the actual bees have a lot of value especially for a good and productive colony."

Queen bees of certain strains can fetch up to £180, fuelling speculation that the price tag has motivated the surge in thefts.

The highest marked theft in the UK was as high as £8,000 for just one hive.

Meanwhile, president of the Shropshire Beekeepers' Association, Brian Goodwin believes there has been a "tremendous" rise in thefts in the county in the past three years.

He puts it down to the increasing value of bees.

"It doesn't surprise me," he said. "It's all to do with the increasing value of bees."

"There have been several in the last year and more particularly the last three years. It's always been a problem but has increased tremendously because the value has increased. The worrying thing is the theft is being carried out by beekeepers. It's not the kind of thing that members of the public could do.

"It's not a widespread problem but it has happened in Shropshire and Powys."

"One of the things we're advising is marking the hives. We're branding them on the outside so it's obvious that they're branded."

"There is a Government inspection service for bees where once every three years inspectors come round and inspect hives – branding would mean they would be able to identify if they had been stolen."

Estimates of the number of beekeepers are difficult to assess, but can be conservatively put at about 30,000 in England and Wales.



The laws of nature are changing, driven by global warming

## Blurring of the seasons

Whether it's a Portuguese man o'war in our seas or flowers blooming months too early, our wild world is changing – with mixed fortunes

**W**e have all heard that winters are not as cold as they used to be, and a new report suggests the changing of the seasons may actually be reflected in nature's yearly timetable, writes Mark Andrews.

A review from the National Trust outlines how the UK has seen a "blurring" of the seasons again in the face of rising temperatures, with mixed fortunes for wildlife.

Bumblebees appeared in January due to mild conditions, spring flowers bloomed early, storms, warm seas brought Portuguese man o'war and bluefin tuna to UK waters, and purple emperor butterflies were on the wing unusually early.

The organisation said its plans to reverse de-

clines in nature – including creating 25,000 hectares (62,000 acres) of new habitat on its land by 2025 – are more urgent than ever in the face of changes in the climate.

And with year-round "thuggish vegetation" growth becoming a trend as a result of mild winters and damp summers, experts warn they will have to find new ways of managing special habitats to benefit the plants and animals that rely on them.

The National Trust's annual review of the year showed a mild, dry start prompted many flowers to arrive early, including wild daffodils blooming in the Teign valley in February and elder and dog rose, usually June blooms, flowering in April.

Balmy weather in May led to a good nesting season for birds, with little terns doing well at Blakeney Point in Norfolk, and spring insects did well. The elusive purple emperor butterfly also

made its earliest appearance in 120 years, when it was spotted at Bookham Common, Surrey on June 11.

Then it was the "summer that nearly was", according to nature expert Matthew Oates, with clouds assembling just as the state schools broke up, leading to another in a string of wet August days – followed by a damp September.

Winged insects were hit, but it was a prolific year for fungi, including the rare powdercap stranger, which was found at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire.

That fine spring spelled a good apple harvest and a bumper autumn for nuts and seeds, attracting a remarkable influx of elusive hawfinches from the continent, with flocks of up to 50 reported.

Mr Oates said of the year: "It was a bit all over the place yet again, there's this issue of the blurring of the seasons, particularly through mild winters and damp summers."

Although the spring did not see strong vegetation growth, allowing small annual plants and insects which need bared earth to do well, it is a trend that is hitting conservation of grasslands and woodland glade areas.

New measures, such as working closely with farmers to increase grazing, are needed to help the habitats and their wildlife cope with climate change, he said.

He added: "It's hard to put any single event down to climate change, but overall the impact is quite staggering."

"It's not just on land, it's sea, it's the ocean warming and what turns up here on our shores, Portuguese man o' war, jellyfish, bluefin tuna, minke whales, which also suggests it's not just a terrestrial issue."

Mr Oates urged people to sign up to citizen science projects monitoring nature, to help inform experts about what was happening in the countryside.

And more "landscape-scale" conservation efforts are needed to help British wildlife cope with climate change and other issues such as invasive species, he said.

"Wildlife needs to be able to break out of its nature reserves prison, you can't keep these guys in small, pocket handkerchief reserves. It's really essential, particularly with climate change as a lot of things need to move north."

"We need much better conservation in the landscape, and it'll mean more beauty, more wonder, more noticeable landscapes," he said.

### Some of the wilder highlights of the year:

● **January** – A mild first half before a cold snap and then warmer conditions resumed.

● **February** – It was the ninth warmest February in records dating back to 1910.

● **March** – A mild and dry month with several bouts of sunny weather, making it the joint fifth warmest March since 1910.

● **April** – A fantastic start to the month saw bluebells peaking over Easter before the weather turned. A project to revive corn buntings in Cornwall celebrated a good nesting season at West Pentire.

● **May** – Three nights of intense frost blackened many trees in gardens and the countryside. A high number of breeding pairs of buzzards were recorded on the Sherborne Estate, Gloucestershire.

● **June** – The purple emperor butterfly was spotted at Bookham Common, Surrey, on June 11, its earliest appearance since 1893, while more water voles were released at

Malham Tarn, North Yorkshire, following a successful reintroduction last year.

● **July** – In the middle of the month the weather changed and a good summer deteriorated into a cool and variable one.

● **August** – More than 500 Arctic terns, and five internationally threatened little terns, fledged at Tughall Mill, Northumberland, after 24-hour monitoring.

● **September** – A diamond spider not seen in the UK for half a century was discovered at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire.

● **October** – Storm Ophelia affected the survival rate of several colonies of grey seals on the Welsh coast and in the South West.

● **November** – Autumn rains meant a very good year for grassland fungi.

● **December** – Feral goats and feral Soay sheep at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, were reported as being in very good condition.



# The ricket

25

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, January 11, 2018



**WE'RE STILL INTO  
YOU, PARAMORE  
INSIDE**

**THEATRE + MUSIC + PUZZLES + TV GUIDE**

**the NEW  
BRITANNIA  
PUB & BREWERY**

**HOT PORK & HOT BEEF COBS  
NOW SERVED ALL DAY.**

**2 4 £10 ON MAIN MEALS**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 5PM.**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12NOON - 8PM**

**SUNDAY LUNCH MENU ALSO AVAILABLE.**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Saturday nights during January & February.*

**SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY**

**THE STRAIGHT ACES**

**SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY**

**NEMESIS**

**SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY**

**THE MURMUR**

**SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY**

**BO DUDLEYS**

**SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY**

**OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER**

**SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY**

**COUNTERFEIT & COLLECTIVE**

**SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY**

**VERSION**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

*Also every Tuesday Poker Night from 7.30pm  
£5 entry. Run by national poker league Hi 5.*

18 ROWLEY VILLAGE B65 9AT t: 0121 559 3415 FIND US ON: f @THEBRITTBREWERY



## Buy and sell with ClassifiedsAds



1. Visit our ClassifiedAds website

[www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk](http://www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk)



2. Call our Classified sales team on **01902 317 878**



3. Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit: [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**ClassifiedAds**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

# After Laughter, we are heading to gig

**G**rammy Award-winners Paramore returned with their fifth album, *After Laughter*, in spring 2017. The new wave group from Tennessee topped the American rock charts and enjoyed a top 10 hit in the main charts on both sides of the Atlantic as critics were dazzled.

The Observer said: 'After Laughter could be one of the year's best pop albums', the Sunday Times Culture added: 'After Laughter is a blast', NME wrote 'a pop triumph', The Sun said 'their best music in years' and DIY awarded it full marks and described it as 'perfect'.

The trio – Hayley Williams, Zac Farro and Taylor York – have returned to the UK for a five-date, whistle-stop arena tour, which reaches Arena Birmingham on Sunday.

The shows are the band's first since June last year, when they played five intimate gigs – including one at the Royal Albert Hall – to coincide with the release of *After Laughter*.

Having previously performed sold out shows at the O2 Arena, Wembley Arena, and co-headlined Reading & Leeds Festivals in 2014, fans are in for something special.

Their recent show at the Royal Albert Hall was a triumph with DIY writing: 'They say what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger and tonight, against the iconic backdrop of the Royal Albert Hall, Paramore prove to be at their most powerful yet'. The Evening Standard added: 'Eighties-style synths and sleek guitars ruled the night at this animated gig'. Q described it as 'perfect'.

Paramore are four-times Grammy nominees and won the Best Rock Song trophy at the 57th Annual Awards. They have long established themselves as international rock superstars.

Their previous self-titled album Paramore hit number one in the UK and US upon release, and showcased a string of blockbuster singles including two-times RIAA platinum-certified hits, plus smashes *Still Into You* and *Ain't It Fun*.

The band has enjoyed a truly remarkable run of critically-acclaimed albums and singles since coming together in Nashville in 2004, from 2005's gold-certified debut, *All We Know Is Falling* and 2007's two-times platinum-certified breakthrough, *RIOT!* – with its three-times platinum-certified hit, *Misery Business*, as well as the platinum-certified singles *crushcrushcrush* and *That's What You Get* – to 2008's worldwide platinum *Decode* and 2009's platinum-certified *Brand New Eyes* and its Grammy-nominated smash, *The Only Exception*.

Frontwoman Hayley has grown up in the spotlight. She formed the band following the divorce of her parents, when she was 14, and signed her first record deal a year later when Atlantic snapped her up.

A poetic and sensitive lyricist, she helped the band to flourish alongside peers like My Chemical Romance and Fall Out Boy.

The band took their time over *After Laughter*, following the international success of their self-titled 2013 record.

Hayley says: "I didn't even know if we were going to make another record... There was a moment when I didn't even want it to happen. Then it was like, I want it to happen, but I don't know how we're going to do it."

The songs were written following a lengthy period of introspection by Hayley, who went into therapy. "For the first time in my life, there

We'll be over on the first flight – Paramore are at Arena



wasn't a pinhole of light at the end of the tunnel. I thought, I just wish everything would stop. It wasn't in the sense of, I'm going to take my life. It was just hopelessness. Like, 'What's the point?' I don't think I understood how dangerous hopelessness is. Everything hurts."

The band were keen to make a break with the past and their re-branding involved bringing in an LA designer, Scott Cleary. He was keen to underscore the band's new sound and direction by creating an impossible trident optical illusion as the album's artwork.

"The band came to me when they were recording the album in LA. We've been friends for a while so we were spending a lot of time together while they were in town from Nashville. They asked me if I'd be interested in doing the album artwork and band re-brand, to which I jumped at the chance. They had some ideas around the 80s vibes of the record, and a few visual references they were feeling. I did the usual 'listen to the record, write/draw a bunch of stuff' and came up with the idea of a landscape where colors, shapes and textures

would represent sounds and moments on the record. They were sold from my first concept, which is very rare, but just shows we were all on the same page. The band were great to work with—it helped being friends, as I didn't need to go through a bunch of people to get fast opinions. I created a computer-generated layout of the whole artwork, then recreated each element in real life (lots of crafting), photographed it, then brought it back into the landscape. Sonically, the record is very 'real' and I wanted the imagery details to have that finishing touch."

After *Laughter* dealt with a range of topics, including death, Hayley was determined to mull over the things on her mind – and also wanted to become a kinder person. "Man, I was just taught to be nice. I'm going to be gone one day, and I have to accept that tomorrow isn't promised. Am I OK with how I'm living today? It's the only thing I can help."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your Express & Star every Friday.

*There wasn't a pinhole of light at the end of the tunnel*





Lucy O'Byrne as Maria



## Do-Re-Maria returns

THE hills are alive with The Sound of Music again as the wholesome alpine fresh musical returns with one of the most popular Marias of recent years in the spotlight.

Lucy O'Byrne, who returns to the iconic role of Maria, found fame when she was the runner up of BBC One's The Voice in 2015. With Will.i.am as her mentor Lucy made history as the first classical singer to reach the final.

The Irish singer won rave reviews for her performance as Maria Von Trapp in the 2016 UK touring production of The Sound of Music, being hailed as 'quite possibly the best Maria since Julie Andrews herself' by The Scotsman.

Following the tour Lucy won the coveted role of Fantine in Cameron Mackintosh's world record-breaking musical phenomenon Les Misérables, which she performed in the West End until earlier this year.

Neil McDermott takes the role of Captain Von Trapp,

played by Christopher Plummer in the much-loved 1965 film. Neil played the recurring role of Ryan Molloy in EastEnders. He is also a regular on stage with roles in the West End including Chief Weasel in The Wind in the Willows and Lord Farquaad in Shrek.

This famous show began with the true story of the Von Trapp Family Singers and their escape from the Nazis after their beloved Austria became part of the Third Reich. Baroness Maria von Trapp's 1949 autobiography inspired Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse to create the Broadway musical in 1959.

The unforgettable score features some of the most memorable songs ever performed on stage, including Edelweiss, My Favorite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, So Long, Farewell and, of course, The Sound of Music. Produced by Bill Kenwright, this production is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

## Coward's way at Birmingham Rep

This weekend marks the final opportunities to catch Birmingham Repertory Theatre's winter hit, The Hundred And One Dalmatians.

Once Cruella and co finally give up on their diabolical plan to turn those adorable puppies into a winter coat, following Saturday's final performance of the family favourite show, Birmingham Rep swings into its new season.

One of Birmingham's premier amateur theatre companies, Hall Green Little Theatre, stage Noel

Coward's comedy Hayfever, about 1920s 'bohemians', at the Centenary Square theatre from January 26 to February 3.

More Noel Coward, pictured, arrives when an old favourite returns to the main house. Emma Rice's acclaimed production of classic romance Brief Encounter, a West End hit, will be staged in the main house from February 2 to 17.

In The Door venue at The Rep on January 26 and 27 (the latter including a matinee) Antonia Beck

and Lucy Nicholls will confront their shared fear of the inevitable with The Death Show, a production unafraid of laughing at the Grim Reaper. A happening at New York's Central Park Zoo, in which a pair of male penguins tried to hatch a rock, is the inspiration for a children's show with dance which looks at the meaning of family. Penguins is at The Door from February 1 to 18, several performances are sold out.

See [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call 0121 236 4455.



## A night of Glee with Abigoliah

One of the world's fastest rising female comics will make a rare West Midlands appearance when she features at Birmingham's Glee Club this weekend.

Abigoliah Schamaun will feature tomorrow night (Friday) when she joins a bill with Jake Lambert and Fin Taylor. Abigoliah grew up in rural Ohio and at the tender age of 18 moved to New York to seek her fame and fortune. She didn't find it so moved to London where she has won acclaim as a stand-up comedian and actor.



## Dig in to this gentle comedy boxed set

All three series of gentle comedy Detectorists are now available on DVD in a boxed set which is well worth digging into. Mackenzie Crook and Toby Jones, two fine character actors, play bickering pals who are devoted to metal detecting, both dream of making that big hoard-like find. They face difficulties in their personal lives and make enemies in their hunt for ancient gold. This gem was shown on BBC Four and may have passed by some viewers who would appreciate its slow burn comedy. It's a reminder that The Office's Mackenzie Crook, soon to be seen as a terrifying druid in Sky Atlantic's Britannia, is a master of comic timing. He also wrote and directed. Guests include Diana Rigg and Peaky Blinders' Aimee-Ffion Edwards. The three series and Christmas special are available in a boxed set, as is a DVD of series three.

### ADVERTISEMENT



Jules and Hayden have recently taken over The Olde Queens Head and it's been going from strength to strength since.

Offering fantastic meals from pub grub to Carvery's there's something for every pallet which have people coming back week after week clearing their plates each time. As well as the superb food on offer they also have a brilliant entertainment week in week out, from open mic nights, motown nights, DJ'S, live bands and their upcoming 80's fancy dress night where prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed. Monday club is a great success with drinks being served at bargain prices from 12-11pm.

So come see for yourself where a great friendly welcome awaits you from everyone at The Olde Queens Head.

## Olde Queens Head

**TUESDAY  
OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**EVERY OTHER  
WEDNESDAY  
JAM NIGHT**

**FRIDAY  
KARAOKE AND DISCO  
WITH STEVIE J**

**SATURDAY  
LIVE BAND  
DIRTY ROXX**

• **Carvery Tuesday - Friday  
12.30 till it's gone**

• Carvery and Pudding £6

• Carvery Only £4.50

• Children under 5 eat FREE

• **Sunday Carvery 12-4pm**

• Carvery and Pudding  
Adults £9.95 Children £7.95

• Carvery Only  
Adults £6.95 Children £4.95

*Pub Grub Menu also available*



**EXTRA 50p OFF YOUR CARVERY  
WHEN YOU MENTION THIS ADVERT**



• Pool Table • FREE Juke Box • FREE Function Room - catering for all functions

**BIRMINGHAM STREET, HALESOWEN**



## The Ticket



**To Advertise Your Pub, Restaurant  
Or Venue Here**

Please call Sarah Childs 01384 353 258



CHOICE



Emma Willis

**The Voice UK (ITV, 8pm)**  
Emma Willis presents the second round of Blind Auditions, as Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and Tom Jones take their places in the famous spinning chairs once again. As ever, the competitors are invited to step onto the stage and sing to the coaches' backs, meaning they must judge the performance based on the quality of the voice alone. All four coaches will be pitching against each other to fill their teams ahead of the Battle and Knockout rounds, with the coveted recording contract with Polydor of offer to the ultimate winner.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics – Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

**6.00** **And They're Off for Sport Relief.** Ore Oduba hosts a sporting challenge in which celebrities compete in a series of bizarre races.

**6.40** **Pointless Celebrities.** John Cooper Clarke, Suzannah Lipscomb, Mark Horton, Alice Roberts, Maggie Aderin-Pocock Jim Al-Khalili, Kate Williams and Robin Ince compete in an Academia-themed edition.

**7.25** **Wedding Day Winners.** Tim and Chris from Leicestershire compete against Richard and Kelly from Northern Ireland for the chance to win a televised wedding and a dream honeymoon.

**8.25** **Casualty.** A reunion with an old friend gives Max cause to re-evaluate his relationship with his estranged wife Zoe, and Elle reveals she wants to tell Blake that Jacob is his father.

**9.15** **BBC News;** Weather.

**9.35** **Hard Sun.** Renko persuades hungry young journalist Will Benedetti to stir up trouble by posting a story about the "Hard Sun" conspiracy, and immediately finds herself in the crosshairs of Security Services agent Grace Morrigan. As the truth is made public, a surgical strike from the government manages to diffuse the situation, transforming what should be a panic-inducing revelation into a laughable hoax. However, the dossier remains unaccounted for, meaning Grace's search is not over. Meanwhile, Hicks races to catch a murderer obsessed with the impending end-of-days, and over at the facility, Daniel receives an unexpected visitor. Sci-fi thriller, starring Agyness Deyn.

**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; National Lottery Update.

**11.55** **The NFL Show.**

**12.25** **Film:** Mister John. (2013) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **7.45** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **8.00** The Designers. **8.30** Deadly Top 10. (R) **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge. (R) **11.00** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **12.00** The Hairys Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. (R) **1.00** A Vicar's Life. (R) **1.30** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R) **2.30** Rome Unpacked. (R) **3.50** Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics. (R) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.30** Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight For Good. (R)

**6.00** **Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the curious creatures of the Jurassic Coast, including the cuttlefish and the tern, as his wildlife expedition in the West Country continues.

**7.00** **A House Through Time.** David Olusoga focuses on the 1890s to the 1890s, revealing how a widow changed the Liverpool dwelling into a boarding house, and uncovering stories of infidelity and murder. (R)

**8.00** **Dad's Army.** Corporal Jones misplaces £500 donated by local shopkeepers to provide a new canteen for servicemen, so the platoon tries to help him remember where he put it. (R)

**8.30** **Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** Paul Merton continues his Grand Tour with a chilly swim across Loch Ba high on Rannoch Moor, and struggles against the elements while trainspotting.

**9.00** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Desiree Burch and Chris McCausland. (R)

**9.45** **Qi XL.** Sarah Millican, Ciarad Llyod and Alice Levine join Alan Davies and Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz, this time focussing on "Objects and Ornaments".

**10.30** **Madonna Rebel Heart Tour.** Footage from the American pop singer's 2015-2016 international tour, featuring performances of her recent hits, and classic tunes such as Material Girl, Holiday, and Like a Prayer.

**12.30** **Film:** Night Train to Lisbon. (2013) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.25** Save Money: Good Food. (R) **11.55** Countrywise. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Dancing on Ice. (R) **2.30** **Film:** Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home. (1995) Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. **4.20** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **5.20** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** The Brits Are Coming.

**6.45** **Take Me Out.** A gymnast from London, a bird-watcher from Manchester, a Yorkshire pig-farmer, and a vintage car enthusiast from Worcester seek the approval of Paddy McGuinness's single ladies.

**8.00** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis presents the second round of Blind Auditions, as Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and Tom Jones take their places in the famous spinning chairs once again. As ever, the competitors are invited to step onto the stage and sing to the coaches' backs, meaning they must judge the performance based on the quality of the voice alone. All four coaches will be pitching against each other to fill their teams ahead of the Battle and Knockout rounds, with the coveted recording contract with Polydor of offer to the ultimate winner.

**9.30** **Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon invades the homes of another three anonymous celebrities, and challenges Frankie Bridge, Jonathan Ross and Ben Shephard to guess who lives there.

**10.25** **ITV News;** Weather.

**10.45** **Film:** Jaws 2. (1978) A man-eating shark menaces teenagers adrift off a seaside resort, while the police chief tries to alert the community. Thriller sequel, starring Roy Scheider.

**12.45** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** The King of Queens. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** Frasier. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. Rob Walker presents live coverage of the eighth day of the event.

**6.00** **A Place in the Sun.** Ben Hillman helps ex-RAF officers Simon Stenning and Amanda Butcher find a winter home on the Caribbean island of Antigua, showing them five properties for their £330,000 budget. (R)

**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**

**7.00** **Spying on the Royals.** The conclusion of the two-part documentary about surveillance on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. In the wake of the abdication, the couple took a holiday in America, unaware they were being spied on by US intelligence agencies as well as British. The outbreak of the Second World War saw them move on to Lisbon, where their dealings with a known Nazi collaborator raised concerns for MI5. (R)

**8.00** **Queen Victoria's Last Love: Abdul Karim.** The monarch's relationship with Indian servant Abdul Karim, which led to jealousy in the royal household when he rose from waiter to become one of Victoria's closest confidants. (R)

**9.00** **Film: Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation.** (2015) Premiere. The team of secret agents faces being shut down when the head of the CIA convinces the US Senate that it is too dangerous. The operatives of the Impossible Mission Force become fugitives when they defy orders and plot to bring down a shadowy society of assassins. Spy thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Rebecca Ferguson and Simon Pegg.

**11.40** **Film: Transporter 2.** (2005)

**1.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Coast vs Country. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R) **12.55** The A-Team. (R) **1.55** The A-Team. (R) **3.00** FIA Formula E: Preview Show. A look ahead to the Marrakech ePrix. **3.30** FIA Formula E Race: Marrakech. The Marrakech ePrix. **5.15** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

**6.10** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** An insight into how very young pups begin to develop complex emotional responses to everything from relationships with litter-mates to their bond with humans.

**7.00** **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups.** Joe Pasquale celebrates another selection of hilarious celebrity pranks committed to film, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for pulling the stunts, and the poor stars on the receiving end. Among the tricks highlighted are Ant and Dec springing a surprise on Jamie Oliver in his own restaurant, and Made in Chelsea star Jamie Laing pranks his own mother. Take That's Mark Owen is annoyed by a bogus lawyer, and football manager Jose Mourinho stages an elaborate joke. Includes commentary by singer Amelia Li, Towie star James "Diags" Bennet, weather presenter Laura Tobin, and athlete Kriss Akabusi.

**8.00** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady plays Cupid for more singletons looking for love, and this time, he helps an insurance manager arrange a date with one of three self-described "cougars".

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces all the highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Barnsley v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa.

**10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Blackburn Rovers v Shrewsbury Town and Portsmouth v Scunthorpe United.

**10.30** **Celebrity Big Brother.**

**11.30** **Lip Sync Battle UK: Katie Price vs Ben Fogle.** (R)

**12.00** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Film:** Jonah Hex. (2010) **4.30** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **8.00** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom **9.00** Spiral **11.10** The Vietnam War **12.05** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.45** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.45** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom **2.45** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **3.45** Close

**ITV2**

**11.30** Take Me Out **12.35** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **1.40** **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **3.45** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.25** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.00** **Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **11.10** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.05** Release the Hounds: Love Island **2.05** Ibiza Weekender **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**2.15** Rosemary & Thyme **3.20** **Film:** Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**1.30** **ITV Racing:** Live from Warwick **4.00** **Film:** From Russia with Love (1963) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** **Film:** From Russia with Love (1963) **6.20** **Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** **Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **9.25** **Film:** Payback (1999) **10.25** FYI Daily **10.30** **Film:** Payback (1999) **11.30** **Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** **Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.35** Car Crash Global: Caught on Camera **2.35** Storage Wars: Texas **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.00** Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** **Film:** The Borrowers (1997) **1.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** The Goldbergs **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) **11.05** Googlebox **1.15** Rude Tube **2.20** Googlebox **3.15** First Dates **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**

**1.00** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **2.50** Robinson Crusoe on Mars (1964) **5.05** Short Circuit (1986) **7.05** Unstoppable (2010) **9.00** Dumb and Dumber To (2014)

# Washing Machine Repairs

## and all White Goods

“Don't go and buy a new one, get it repaired...”

# AA DOMESTICS

41a Hagley Mall, Cornbow Centre

0121 5509800





## CHOICE



James Norton

**McMafia****(BBC1, 9pm)**

Benny uncovers information about a shipment of heroin being smuggled from Pakistan into India. He does not realise that Dilly is spying on him, and after a robbery, gains all the information he needs to pull off a heist - however Semiyon warns that it is Alex's decision whether the operation goes ahead. Karin is suspicious about the fund Alex is using to move Semiyon's money around, while Rebecca becomes concerned when she discovers Alex has a secret second phone. In Prague, Vadim resolves to find out who Benes is in league with.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** The Truth About Looking Good. (R) **3.30** Big Cats. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Attenborough and the Sea Dragon. (R)

**6.05 BBC News.****6.20 Regional Programme.**

**6.30 Countryfile.** The team reports from the Somerset Levels, where Matt Baker discovers a project to protect the common crane, a bird that now thrives in the area thanks to an unlikely partnership. Anita Rani meets an apple farmer, Adam Henson prepares for winter on his farm, and Charlotte Smith reports on the dangers of swimming in the sea. Plus, the first in a series of features on life as a ruralist.

**7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville tries to convince Mr Newbold that Mrs Featherstone has an exciting past. Eric and Cyn take up tandem cycling, and Leroy's latest task involves dressing up as a banana.

**8.00 The Coronation.** Documentary about the queen's coronation in 1953, featuring an interview with the monarch, who shares her memories and discusses seeing her father crowned as a child.**9.00 McMafia.** Benny uncovers information about heroin being smuggled into India - but he does not realise Dilly is watching, and now has all the information he needs to pull off a heist.**10.00 BBC News.****10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's two Premier League matches - Bournemouth v Arsenal at the Vitality Stadium and Liverpool v Manchester City at Anfield.

**11.30 Man Like Mo'bee.** New series. Sitcom about a reformed drug dealer trying to look after his younger sister. Mo'bee faces a moral quandary.

**11.50 Man Like Mo'bee.** Aks is suspended from school for fighting, and Mo'bee's uncles urge him to consider an arranged marriage to provide the girl with a much-needed female role model.

**12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.**12.20** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Coast. (R) **7.00** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Greatest Gardens. (R) **8.50** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark Williams. **5.35** Ski Sunday.

**6.20 Film: Mr Holmes.** (2015) Premiere. An elderly Sherlock Holmes retires to a seaside farmhouse in the aftermath of the Second World War, and struggles to cope with his diminished faculties. Assisted by his housekeeper's inquisitive son, he tries to piece together the events of the one case that he failed to solve. Period mystery based on Mitch Cullin's novel A Slight Trick of the Mind, starring Ian McKellen.

**8.00 Yellowstone: The Wildest Winter.** Kate Humble, Patrick Ayres, scientists and wildlife cameramen examine the changing seasons at Yellowstone National Park during 2016, and the effect on the local American wildlife. In the first episode, Patrick follows the grizzly bears, who are taking a risk with the weather by leaving their winter dens early. Meanwhile, Kate gets to grips with the science behind this frozen season. (R)

**9.00 Dragons' Den.** Debrah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell once again take their places in the boardroom, as more would-be entrepreneurs pitch their business plans. This time, a former bricklayer hopes his mortar-board invention will help him build a working relationship with a Dragon, and a mother-of-two seeks an investment for her child-tracking device. Plus, a hopeful snack industry pioneer pitches crisps inspired by astronauts, and a 25-year-old designer enlists the aid of a Paralympian to demonstrate her product designed for wheelchair users.

**10.00 Film: The Water Diviner.** (2014) Premiere. An Australian travels to Turkey after the First World War to discover what happened to his sons. Period drama, directed by and starring Russell Crowe.

**11.45** Snooker: The Masters.**12.35** Snooker: The Masters - Extra.**2.35** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** River Monsters. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **12.00** The Voice UK. (R) **1.30** ITV News.

**Weather.** **1.40** Britain's Brightest Fantasy. (R) **2.10** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.40** Film: Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy fantasy, starring Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep. **4.35** Regional Programme. **Weather.** **4.45** ITV News. **Weather.** **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

**6.00** **Dancing on Ice.** Phillip Schofield and Holly Wootloughby present the skating challenge, with judges Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo assessing the celebrities' performance on the ice. This week features the first skate-off of the series, as two contestants and their professional partners compete to avoid being eliminated from the contest.

**8.00** **Vera.** The detective investigates when a seemingly beloved resident of a coastal community is fatally driven off the road, and digs up the victim's past in the hope of unmasking the killer. Crime drama based on Ann Cleeves' series of novels, starring Brenda Blethyn.

**10.00** **ITV News:** Weather.

**10.15** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

**11.10** **Next of Kin.** A GP's brother is kidnapped on his way home to the UK from his clinic in Lahore, and a counterterrorism unit is anxious to trace his son. Thriller, with Archie Panjabi. (R)

**12.05** **Great Art.** Tim Marlow explores the legacy of 19th-century art collector Paul Durand-Ruel. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium. With Maroon 5, Earth, Wind & Fire and Ella Henderson. (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** **Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** (R) **6.10** The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Film: Two by Two. (2015) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Tara Flynn. **3.50** Channel 4 News. **4.15** Daisies. BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. Rob Walker presents live coverage of the men's final.

**8.00** **The Biggest Little Railway in the World.** The miniature train begins its 71-mile journey, and the train ferry build in the previous episode does not work as well as expected. Further down the line, the track teams have to work quickly in heavy rain while fending off midges, while other engineers have to find a way to span a 60-metre viaduct that could flood at any moment.

**9.00** **SAS: Who Dares Wins.** The remaining recruits are put through rounds of gruelling training by special forces instructors in Morocco's Atlas Mountains. They must abseil more than 200 feet from the top of the El Mansour Dam, and undertake a gruelling mountain climb in high temperatures while each carrying 40 pounds on their back. They are also forced to accept their own personal weaknesses and find ways to turn them to their advantage, as the instructors will be looking for those who are able to find the big test in adversity.

**10.00** **The Big Fat Quiz of Everything.** Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer, Claudia Winkleman, Miranda Hart, Jonathan Ross and Nish Kumar answer Jimmy Carr's questions on the past 100,000 years of human history. (R)

**12.00** **Film: Killing Them Softly.** (2012) Crime thriller, starring Brad Pitt. **4.15** Grand Designs Australia. A family builds a new home on a plot in the garden. (R) **2.40** Location, Location, Location. Catching up with a couple who were looking for a home in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. (R) **3.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.30** Coast vs Country. A couple look for a property in Cornwall either by the sea or in a rural area. (R) **5.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.15** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Blind Date. (R)

**1.00** Will & Grace. (R) **1.30** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **3.15** Film: Dennis the Menace Strikes Again. (1998) Family comedy sequel, starring Justin Cooper. **4.40** Film: Garfield. (2004) Family comedy, with the voice of Bill Murray.

**6.10** **Film: Pixels.** (2015) Premiere. Aliens declare war on Earth having seen video games from the 1980s and interpreted them as a threat. Their attack comes in the form of deadly recreations of classic video games, so the US government recruits four former arcade champions to repel the attack. Sci-fi comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Peter Dinklage. Edited for violence.

**7.10** **5 News Update.****7.15** **Film: Pixels.** (2015) Concluded.**8.00** **Billionaire Babies: 24 Carat Kids.****8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of another day for the illustrious inhabitants as they cope with the day-to-day complications of life under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, while also dealing with one another's quirks and foibles.

**10.05** **Film: Grown Ups 2.** (2013) Four friends try to relive their youth, but find their kids have a thing or two to teach them on the last day of school. Comedy sequel, with Adam Sandler and Chris Rock.

**11.55** **One Night with My Ex.** Suspicions of cheating destroyed the trust between Kenya and Saad, and they have not seen each other for two years. They are reunited to talk about what went wrong. (R)

**12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **9.00** Neil Armstrong - To the First Man on the Moon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Churchill's First World War **12.00** The Story of Maths **2.00** Neil Armstrong - First Man on the Moon **3.00** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **4.00** Close

**ITV2**

**12.35** Take Me Out **1.50** The Voice UK **3.20** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: That Awkward Moment (2014) **1.35** Film: That Awkward Moment (2014) **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.25** Foyle's War **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Secret Life of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Film: Chicago (2002) **12.15** Lewis **2.15** Blue Murder **3.30** Road to Avonlea **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**11.50** Pawn Stars **1.40** Hornblower **3.50** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **6.55** Film: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **9.00** Film: The Krays (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Krays (1990) **10.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Inside Man (2006) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Inside Man (2006) **2.00** The Car Chasers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.00** Melissa & Joey **1.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Life of Pi (2012) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Googlebox **1.35** Rude Tube **2.30** First Dates **3.25** Hollyoaks

**Film4**

**11.00** Master of the World (1961) **1.00** The Core (2003) **3.45** Hulk (2003) **6.25** The Book Thief (2013) Second World War drama, starring Sophie Nelisse. **9.00** Non-Stop (2014) An air marshal on a transatlantic flight searches for a terrorist threatening to kill the passengers one by one. Action thriller, with Liam Neeson and Julianne Moore. **11.05** Blood Ties (2013) Crime drama, starring Clive Owen and Billy Crudup. **1.40** Beauty (2011) **3.55** Close

## Just the ticket for Parrys International at open day

## Commercial feature

Multiple award winning coach holiday company - Parrys International, will open its doors to the public on Sunday January 14 for its very popular annual open day.

With the release of the new 2018 brochures, the company is inviting members of the public to view their premises, luxury coaches and meet some of their international hotel and attraction providers.

It also gives the chance for people to gain information from the many staff - drivers and couriers - who will be on hand to help visitors experience and see the luxury coach features that are unique to the company.

They will even be able to book holidays with a number of special offers for the upcoming season.

## Sponsors

Hotel representatives will be available from Hilton Worldwide Hotels, Marriott, Holiday Inn, Accor Hotels, Warners and individual hotels from Scotland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Germany, Spain and the Isle of Wight.

Parrys International are also main team sponsors of Wolverhampton Speedway, and their management and a top rider will be in attendance.

Parrys offer over 600 departures for coaching holidays in Britain, Ireland and Europe. These range from London Theatre Weekends, midweek breaks in Cornwall to 12 day holidays featuring Italy's Lake Garda.

Continental holidays also include Germany, the Costa Brava in Spain, Andorra, the imperial Cities of Prague,



A German wine queen will be at the day



Parrys are sponsors of Wolves Speedway



Parrys operate their own luxury coaches



There are regular trips to Lake Garda

Budapest and Vienna, and a 15-day Italian highlights tour. The company have also introduced a huge choice of new day excursions with departures for its many destinations operating throughout the year.

The open Day runs from 10am until 3pm and is hosted at their garage and offices in Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay. More information from the company can be obtained by calling 01922 414576.



**PARRYS INTERNATIONAL**

PARRYS INTERNATIONAL TOURS LTD  
Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay, West Midlands, WS6 7QX

- ▶ UK Weekends
- ▶ London Theatre
- ▶ British Tours
- ▶ Ireland
- ▶ Continental Holidays
- ▶ Day Excursions
- ▶ Serving The West Midlands



**Luxury Coach Holidays**

CALL FOR A BROCHURE

**01922 414576**

[www.parrys-international.co.uk](http://www.parrys-international.co.uk)



▶ Visit Our Open Day on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 10am



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**The Wrong Mother, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Kaylene gives birth to twins after in vitro fertilisation, but when she needs help with home care, the nurse she hires turns out to be the unwhinged woman who donated the eggs for the procedure. Thriller, starring Vanessa Marcil and Stephen Snedden. (2017)

TUESDAY

**False Pretenses, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman's life is left in tatters when her wealthy husband finds he has been conned out of millions by his best friend, and kills himself. Escaping the painful memories, she moves elsewhere and slowly begins to rebuild her life - until the conman hunts her down. Thriller, starring Peta Wilson. (2004)

WEDNESDAY

**A Murderer Upstairs, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A mother protects her stepdaughter after the teenager witnesses the murder of her best friend. But before long, she comes to the terrifying possibility that the girl may be the actual killer. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Tiera Skovbye and Cameron Bancroft. (2017)



Spring Breakers, Friday, Channel 4, 12.20am

THURSDAY

**Her Dark Past, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

After a shooting incident leaves her in a coma, a woman awakens after three months with no memory of her true identity. Even more of a puzzle is what she could have done for someone to want her dead, and as she rediscovers her dark past, she must earn redemption along the way. Mystery thriller, starring Anna Lise Phillips and Kevin Ryan. (2016)

FRIDAY

**Spring Breakers, Channel 4, 12.20am**

Four teenage girls are desperate to enjoy a wild spring holiday in Florida, and resort to robbery to fund it. Their brush with the law brings them to the attention of a sleazy gangster, who seduces them further into a life of crime while giving them the hedonistic experiences they crave. Drama, starring James Franco, Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Benson, Rachel Korine, Gucci Mane, Heather Morris and Ash Lendzion. (2012)

# Channel 4 look to carry on the winning formula

In 2012, to celebrate its 30th anniversary, Channel 4 broadcast a 'mash-up night' in which some of its biggest personalities popped up in one another's shows.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jon Snow appeared in Channel 4 Newsreaders do River Cottage, Alan Carr joined Location, Location, Location's Kirstie Allsopp to poke around other peoples' houses, The Million Pound Drop was hosted by Phil Spencer with Davina McCall playing the game, and the Made in Chelsea cast staged Come Dine With Me.

However, the most memorable of the job-swap programmes was the merging of comedy panel show 8 Out of 10 Cats and long-running daytime quiz Countdown.

Jimmy Carr took over as host for the one-off special alongside short-skirted purveyor of numbered and lettered tiles Rachel Riley, while Cats regulars Sean Lock and Jon Richardson competed as team captains and Josie Wilkinson joined Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner.

The show was an unexpected success – it was the second most watched programme on Channel 4 that week.

Since then, 92 episodes of 'Catsdown' have aired and it was even nominated for a British Comedy Award in 2014.

So what has made the show so popular over the years?

The participants seem to think that it is down to their chemistry and banter with each other, and in Lock's case, not really caring about the result.

"It's a bit odd because normally you go on Countdown, you lose, and you're never seen again," he said in an interview with Time Out in 2013.

"Whereas I go on Countdown, I lose, and I'm back again, to get wupped over and over.

"Because Jon is like a freak. He always gets the same as Dictionary Corner and they've got a f\*\*\*ing computer! He plays with his mum; he's got a Countdown clock in his loft. He does! Seriously!"

However, the studious Richardson might find it difficult to concentrate tonight as the quiz returns for its 11th run.

On his team is Wilkinson who, in the past, has appeared as Riley's assistant, often dressed in costume while using props, offering special prizes, replacing letter tiles with symbols and turning up despite having been 'fired'.

The other regular captain, Lock, is absent due to other commitments but he has an able deputy in Kevin Bridges.

The Glaswegian comic has been one of the country's most popular performers for the last decade now and tickets for his hotly anticipated tour Brand New are selling out fast.

Bridges will be joined on the panel by Jessica Knappett, best known for playing Meg in the TV series Drifters, which she also created, and Lisa in The Inbetweeners Movie.

Finally, performance poet Dr John Cooper Clarke, aka the Bard of Salford, joins the sensible Ms Dent in Dictionary Corner.



8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

**Silent Witness**

**BBC1, 9pm**

Part one of two. A woman is murdered and the forensic evidence takes the team to a cosmetic clinic where the victim had been receiving various treatments seemingly for free, but Nikki and Silva are frustrated by the CEO of Hamilton Ashe hospital when he blocks access to Karen's medical records. Meanwhile, when his daughter Rosie turns up at the Lyell as her mum is in hospital over a pregnancy complication, Thomas must play the doting father for a few weeks - a role that does not come naturally.

TUESDAY

**Britain's Favourite Dogs: Top 100**

**ITV, 7.30pm**

Britain is a nation of dog lovers, with one in four of us sharing our homes with a canine. But which of the 217 recognised breeds (and the thousands of cross breeds) can claim to be the nation's favourite? Sara Cox and Ben Fogle are about to find out as they reveal the results of one of the most comprehensive surveys on dog ownership ever undertaken in the UK. As well as running down the chart of the best-loved breeds, they'll also be hearing from famous owners, including Geri

Halliwel, Simon Gregson, Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby and Prince Harry, exploring the key characteristics of the popular pooches that made the top 100, and sharing inspiring stories about some heroic hounds.

WEDNESDAY

**Millionaires' Ex-Wives Club**

**BBC2, 9pm**

Few divorces are painless, but as this documentary discovers, it seems the more money is at stake, the fiercer the fight – and thanks to a change in the law which means a 50/50 split is now the starting point, London has become the leading battleground in high-profile cases. Press coverage of such cases sometimes suggests that the ex-wives are just out for what they can get, but this programme meets two women who went to war with their former spouses to find out what really motivated them. It also examines the toll the legal proceedings can take on the women, as Michelle Young explains why she clocked up 65 court hearings, 13 sets of

Kiri

**Channel 4, 9pm**

Social worker Miriam is put under increasing pressure to admit she is to blame for what happened to Kiri, while the young girl's foster family of Jim, Alice and Si also find themselves thrown into the media spotlight.

Elsewhere, Kiri's grandfather Tobi searches for his son, Nate, the prime suspect in the case, which sees him face up to some uncomfortable truths about his relationship with him. The four-part drama continues, starring Sarah Lancashire, Lucian Mсамати and Felicia Mukasa.



Silent Witness, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

**Death in Paradise**

**BBC1, 9pm**

Famous thriller author Frank O'Toole is found stabbed through the heart after taking an early morning swim in the ocean. Suspicion soon falls on the victim's wife Valerie, but with eyewitnesses confirming he was swimming alone, how could anyone, let alone the prime suspect, have got from the house to the sea without being detected? Away from the investigation, Dwayne concentrates on finding a date for a voodoo love festival. Whodunit, guest starring Simon Callow, Imogen Stubbs, and Sean Gibson of Car Shame fame.

FRIDAY

**Monty Don's Paradise Gardens**

**BBC2, 9pm**

The presenter visits gardens that represent and symbolise the four areas of Islamic civilisation - Andalusian, Moghul, Persian and Ottoman - revealing the importance of Paradise Gardens celebrated in the Koran. He begins his quest in Spain, where he discovers their basic building blocks. In Morocco, he sees the wide variety of paradise gardens from an enormous royal walled meadow, to a secret inner city courtyard. Then in the Iranian desert, he uncovers the mystery to their creation.



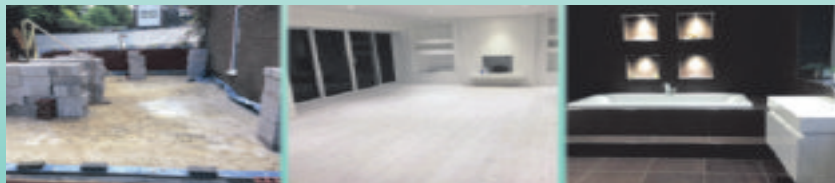
**one stop**  
BUILDING &  
MAINTENANCE

**30+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**DISCOUNT**

**15% OFF**

**OUR EXTENSIONS**



**112A Hagley Road West, Oldbury B68 0AA**

**EMAIL: info@onestopmaintenance.net**

**WEB: www.onestopmaintenance.net**

**0121 429 1568**

Fitted within 2 weeks for a service you can trust

**C&T**

**Doors & Windows Ltd**

Tel: 01902 842706 / 07759 536818

www.candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

**ALL AREAS COVERED**

Email: enquiries@candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

**DOORS**

**COMPOSITE DOORS AVAILABLE**

Un glazed/ Glazed from £349.00 fully fitted. New Improved 10 point locking system fully reinforced. Many more designs available.

**EDWARDIAN CONSERVATORY**  
3 MTR x 3 MTR  
From £4500

**Bi-Fold Doors**  
From £999

**French Patio Doors**  
From £649

**QUALITY KITCHEN FACELIFTS**

**A fresh approach to a new kitchen**

why replace when you can reface?

- Trusted reputation
- Made to measure custom-built doors and units
- Door swaps to full kitchens - tailored to your needs

www.dreamdoors.co.uk

**DREAM DOORS®**

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

View our credentials on

Checkatrade.com

Call Gary For a Free Estimate

**01384 469756**

dy@dreamdoors.co.uk

26 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA

**WORLD OF MOBILITY**

We have a selection of New and Used Scooters

Stairlifts-Fully Installed

New Riser Recliners

New Wheelchairs and a large selection of Daily Living Aids

**We also do servicing and repairs!**

Showroom: 108C Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge, DY8 4BS or call

**01384 378252**

OPEN MON-SAT FREE PARKING at rear

We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.

**Thinking of Volunteering?**

**CHARITIES IN THE COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**

29th January 2018 - 30th January 2018

In Halesowen: Trinity Point, New Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3HY

**MY COMMUNITY SPACE**

FREE ENTRY

Open Days on

29th January 2018: 1pm - 4pm | 30th January 2018: 9am - 12pm

Private viewings available by appointment or register to attend our Open Days | Tel: 0300 111 0500

contact.us@mycommunityspace.org.uk

Company No: 06650758 | Charity No: 1125415

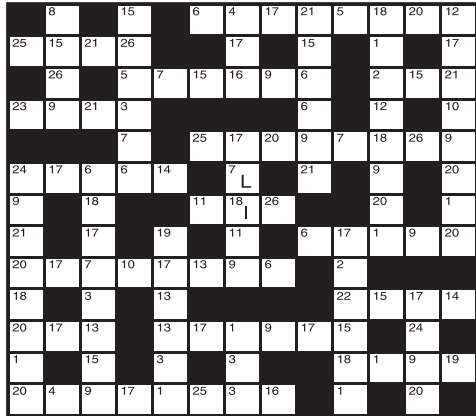


## BRAIN GYM

No.462

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	O	E	J	P	C	B	U	L	Q	H	I	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	M	X	V	T	S	K	D	G	A	N	Z	Y

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

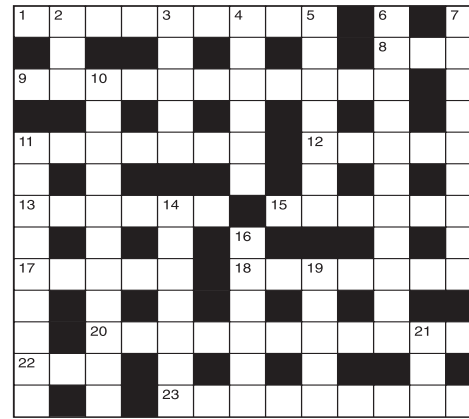
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. In the main, it can't be left (9)
8. Stir caused by short notice and nothing more (3)
9. Electric chair occupied by rulers? (4,2,5)
11. Support for one who gives a lesson (7)
12. One asked to stay made a random surmise, we hear (5)
13. Part of the world where there's a daily rising! (6)
15. Those who occupy it may be given plenty of time (6)
17. The principle is the same both ways (5)
18. Present indisputable evidence again and reprimand (7)
20. The North Sea (6,5)
22. Shelter put back for the sea-dweller (4)
23. Edith's upset about northern heretic (9)

## Down

2. Fasten an unfinished row of seats (3)
3. Insolvent stock exchange operator loses a letter (5)
4. Describing the mountains when one is in diverted plane (6)
5. Briefly the same bet for the old lady (7)
6. Hairdresser's staff (7,4)
7. A girl will show you the Swiss lake (9)
10. Lots of interest may attract people to this (7,4)
11. Minor tale ruined by the circus performer (4-5)
14. Spotted description of plain cake (7)
16. Marie's unusual hosts (6)
19. Carefully examine soft dress (5)
21. Yes, it's one of the pupils, we hear (3)



## Quick Clues:

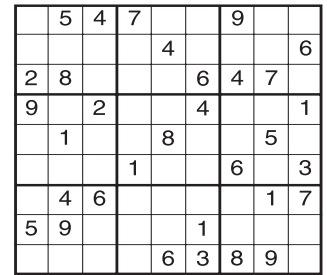
## Across

1. Benefit (9)
8. Nothing (3)
9. Rude (11)
11. Tackle (7)
12. Weird (5)
13. Drift (6)
15. Made great efforts (6)
17. Pitiless (5)
18. Type of sword (7)
20. Anarchy (11)
22. Name for the sun (3)
23. Unsafe (9)

## Down

2. Obscure (3)
3. Bravery (5)
4. Among (6)
5. Ingredient (7)
6. Question (11)
7. Innocent (9)
10. Incessantly (11)
11. Great slaughter (9)
14. Let (7)
16. Protect (6)
19. Flavour (5)
21. Small French coin (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

1	3	5	7	4	9	6	8	2
6	4	9	3	2	8	1	7	5
8	2	7	6	5	1	4	9	3
2	7	6	1	3	4	8	5	9
9	5	8	2	6	7	3	1	4
3	1	4	9	8	5	7	2	6
7	8	2	4	9	3	5	6	1
5	6	3	8	1	2	9	4	7
4	9	1	5	7	6	2	3	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Amends; 8 Inkpot; 10 Scuttle; 11 Islet; 12 Year; 13 Skins; 17 Sight; 18 Iron; 22 Agree; 23 Incense; 24 Annual; 25 Tuners. Down: 1 Cat's eye; 2 Refusal; 3 Edits; 4 Ensigns; 5 Spill; 6 State; 9 Deck chair; 14 Liberal; 15 Printer; 16 Intense; 19 Pagan; 20 Trunk; 21 Scrub.  
 QUICK - Across: 7 Repair; 8 Hasten; 10 Protect; 11 Tract; 12 Ewer; 13 Below; 17 Vague; 18 Free; 22 Ewer; 23 Upright; 24 Silent; 25 Manner. Down: 1 Prophet; 2 Opposed; 3 Liken; 4 Caution; 5 Steal; 6 Unity; 9 Strenuous; 14 Vagrant; 15 Brigand; 16 Fetters; 19 Close; 20 Dwell; 21 Break.

## Quiz

1. Which annual publication was first published in 1700 as Voices of the Stars?
2. What did Ben Corson and Roger Staughton invent?
3. Which 'absurdist' playwright died in March 1994?
4. Which US city was designed by French engineer Pierre L'Enfant?
5. What is the BBC's 24-hour news-and-sport radio network called?
6. Who wrote the classic US satirical novel Main Street?
7. Who presented Hampton Court Palace to Henry VIII in 1525?
8. What is the capital of Zimbabwe?
9. Which king of France did Marie Antoinette marry?
10. What is a devil's coach-horse?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bay of Naples; 2 Nellie Melba; 3 Dublin; 4 Salzburg; 5 Apple; 6 Canterbury; 7 Princess Anne; 8 Start the Week; 9 Thermal insulation; 10 Italy.

Niner: SHRINKAGE

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

785349  
485691  
696237

gives a fruit,  
gives more fruit,  
gives a South American fruit.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!



Find Fitness  
Equipment with  
your local  
**Express & Star**



## ...with Classifieds

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local, 01902 317878



# This break Leeds to perfect mix

**FOOD** and footie – that's certainly the way to the heart of the two boys in my life and we were combining the two with a weekend in Leeds.

Home for the weekend was the four-star Novotel which was just a five-minute walk from the train station.

The hotel bar – The Sugar Factory – is sparkly and metallic with a chilled out atmosphere. We supped on sumptuous cocktails while we watched sport on the huge TV screens, sitting on comfy leather sofas.

Novotel catered for both the youngsters and the adults with a gym, web corner and games area for the young ones.

The hotel was in an ideal location close to the city centre. It was easy to get around on foot because the centre seems to be based on a grid system and when we ventured out with our Family Day Rover passes it also seemed so simple on public transport.

## MATCH

Our reason for being in Leeds was for a football match at Elland Road – both my husband and son were over the moon that we managed to have a great view in the press box.

The match had switched to a Friday night, so that gave us plenty of time to explore this eclectic city.

Just 10 minutes bus ride from the hotel was the Emmerdale Studio Experience. For fans of the soap this is a dream. On the 80-minute guided tour at the former ITV studios, you can find out how story lines are put together, visit the make-up department, sit at the Woolpack bar and wander through the model village.

We had now worked up an appetite and made our way back into the centre for lunch at Pizza Fella, in Vicar Lane. Peering through the window the restaurant looked totally unassuming from the outside with its

Chance to pull a few pints at The Woolpack



contemporary bare wooden interior, but the pizzas were to die for.

In the evening, it was the off to Meat Liquor in Trinity Leeds. Trinity has about 120 shops with plenty of bars and restaurants.

Meat Liquor was very retro and funky with 70s-style tables and it was back to basics with kitchen roll on the table and sauces.

There is so much more to Leeds than bars and restaurants. It is home to the Royal Armouries, which is outstanding and jaw-dropping for both adults and

youngsters alike. The museum is home to the UK's largest collection of arms, armour and artillery. There are six themed galleries – and it is free.

If you still have time there is also shopping with a mixture of independent, boutique and mainstream shops.

Leeds is bidding to become European Capital of Culture 2023 and you can certainly see why they describe it as a 'diverse and vibrant culture'.

It was voted one of the top 10 European cities in 2017 by Lonely Planet. It boasts more than 300 bars

Impressive – The Corn Exchange in Leeds



and restaurants and a walk through the streets in the evening just goes to show it is thriving.

Sport is also big in the city and Leeds has hosted huge events including Tour de France Grand Depart in 2014 and the Rugby World Cup in 2015 was hosted at Elland Road.

Leeds is a mixture of old and new with a wonderful collection of buildings, bars and restaurants and attractions. And let's just say that we had far more success with the food than the footie.

LISA BAILEY

## HALF PRICE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER JUST £2.00 PER MONTH (INC. P&P)



**To subscribe call our free customer care hotline on 0800 146 540**

Overseas 12-month gift subscriptions are available from: Europe £73.56, rest of the world £110.76 (Includes P&P, Direct Debit or Pre-payment)

WOLVERHAMPTON  
MAGAZINE

## StarReaderTravel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle  
in association with  
**Just Go!**  
Holidays



### Terracotta Warriors in Liverpool

**Departing Sunday 18 Mar**  
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

#### Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at our selected hotel
- ✓ Entrance to the Terracotta Warriors exhibition at the World Museum, Liverpool

**2 Days by Coach** only **£115**



### Downton Abbey

Behind the Scenes Exclusive

**Departing Thursday 29 Mar**  
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

#### Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
- ✓ Exclusive visit to Highclere Castle for Just Go! customers

**2 Days by Coach** only **£150**

Coach package holidays are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions which are based on the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbb/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: **03332 341 875** Quote **JGRT**  
or visit online at: **justgoholidays.com/RT**

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.



# Local Specialists

## Aerials

### TV Aerial Installations Services LTD

EXTRA TV POINT  
FROM £45

TV AERIAL &  
SATELLITE REPAIR  
FROM £19.95

Call us for  
more services

Tel: 08006123992 or 07454891903



## Carpentry

### CARPENTRY SERVICES

**ROBERT CHESNEY**  
CARPENTRY / JOINERY

KITCHEN FITTING SPECIALIST  
ALL CARPENTRY WORKS  
ROOFS / DOORS / LOCKS  
DECKING SPECIALIST  
CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE  
0121 421 6740  
07779746939



### DAVID ADAMS

#### CARPENTRY

Doors, loft conversions, laminate

flooring, UPVC windows & doors

**FREE QUOTATIONS**

30 years experience

0121 602 1450  
07885 417812

## Builders

### D H Household Maintenance

All building maintenance and DIY work undertaken  
All areas covered  
0121 422 8594  
07985 548466

## Decorating

### HALESOWEN DECORATORS

Painters & Decorators

**OAP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE**  
10% OFF with this advert  
Residential and Commercial work undertaken  
CALL 07860 206713  
0121 602 0966  
halesowendecorators@gmail.com

## Computers

### NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?

• All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed  
• Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks  
• Home Network Implemented • Internet Connections Installed  
DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC

Call: 0121 422 7646 or 07970 846 552

**JUDR@P PC SUPPORT**

email: support@judrap.com www.judrap.com



## Double Glazing

### Misted Sealed Units?

#### Black Country Glazing

Contact US for a **FREE quote!**

Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories

'A' Rated Windows as Standard  
**10 YEAR GUARANTEE**

Please see our customer reviews on either Homepro or Which

Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth

Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ

Est 1987 **01384 566100**

www.blackcountryglazing.com

Which? FENSA

## Driveways

### DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS

Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Red Tarmac Car Parks • Resurfacing  
**5 Year Guarantee On All Work**  
Free Quotations and Advice

Checkatrade

Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190  
www.discountdriveways.co.uk



### ACE PAVING SERVICES LTD

City and Guilds Streetworks Approved  
• Tarmac • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios • Landscaping  
• Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing • Fencing and Decking  
• Power Washing • 5 year guarantee FREE estimate • 15 years experience  
• Fully insured • Resinbond Drives

01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419

Web: www.acepavingsservicesltd.co.uk

Email: acepavingsservices@outlook.com

Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields, Halesowen B63 2QB

f b City & Guilds

## Electricians

### ELECTRICIAN

Fully guaranteed work  
Honest reliable service

**ANT ELECTRIC**

Ring Tony or Julie on

**07974 428 603**

**KEEP IT LOCAL**

'No Job Too Small'

MB electric

All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken

Home rewiring from £800

For a high quality local service call:

0121 3690311  
07939 503905

mbelectric.co.uk

## Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

### Roberts Guttering Services

20% Discount

Local Specialists

Dry Verge Units Fitted

For All aspects of cleaning & repair call

Robert for a FREE quote on

**07767869792**

We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

City & Guilds

Local Specialists

• All garden work undertaken

• Hedges and lawns cut

• General tidy and rubbish removed

• Garden landscaping and fencing work

Telephone: 07851 323303

City & Guilds

## Fencing

### Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken

• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling

• Turfing • Garden Clearance

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

Manufacturers of all Concrete Products

eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards

All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken

Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on

**01384 242891 or 07970 300586**

STOURBRIDGE FENCING & PAVING

Turfing Tree Cutting Paving / Slabbing Fencing Gates

Garden Sheds Available Rubbish Removal

Contact us on 07572 687123

10% discount for OAPs

Local Specialists

Garage Doors

DB GARAGE DOORS

• Supply • Repair • Install • Roller • Up and Over • Sectional • Side Hinged • Remote Control • Made to measure • Doors • FREE Survey & Quotation

www.dbshutters.co.uk

Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

GARADOR - CARDAL - SELECT - WESSEX - HENDERSON - HORMANN

SECTIONALS - UP & OVERS - SIDE-HINGED - ROLLERS - MOTORISED

RELIADOR GARAGE DOORS

SALES - INSTALLATION - REPAIRS

01384 386909

07858 299305

www.reliador.co.uk - reliadorgd@gmail.com

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

SAME DAY SERVICE

NO FIX NO FEE!

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal

\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes

\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios

\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation

**WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK**

**01384 213644 or 07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,

Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified

PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING

(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)

All installations and repairs

Supply and fit or fit only

TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER

No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes

Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776

www.household-plumbing.co.uk

EST 1994

Ken Perry

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters,

Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates,

Boilers changed

Guild of Master Craftsmen

Gas Safe Registered

STOURBRIDGE 392284

## Loft Ladders

### The Loft Ladder Man

Loft Ladders

fitted from **£120**

inclusive

New or enlarged hatches

T & G Flooring, Lighting

Call Luke on

**07779 118807 or**

**01384 833025**

lukejs248@gmail.com

like our brand new facebook page @ theloftladderman

Fully Insured

We will beat any like for like quote

Mobile Hairdresser

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Cuts, Colours, Perms etc

Hair Extensions

Call Lyndsey **07795 514858**

Mot's

MOT

£27.99

with this advert

FREE RE-TEST

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,

(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0JJ

**0121 559 6001**

MOT

Plastering

C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment

needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding,

partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small

**07538 718264**

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

Plastering

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

2

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

3

Post to...  
**Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG**



# Local Specialists



## Property Maintenance

## INSIDE OUT SERVICES

ALL ASPECTS OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

• BRICKWORK • BLOCK PAVING CLEANING  
• GUTTERING • FELT ROOFING • POINTING UP  
• EXTERIOR PAINTING DECORATING  
• ELECTRICAL WORK • LANDSCAPING  
• NO JOB TOO SMALL

**Phone George**  
**0121 602 3065 07974 538649**



## Roofing

## ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

**0121 420 1582**  
**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**  
Mobile Number: 07947 839451

allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk  
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

## ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
  - Small Repairs From £15
  - Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.  
- Rubberised flat roofing  
- Flat roof specialist  
- Insurance work undertaken  
- Est 25 years  
- Discounted for OAPs  
- Exterior Painting  
**FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**



**Home: 01384 872276**  
**Mobile: 07584 081228**

## Tiling

## I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631



## Window Specialists

## Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed

**HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.**  
QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE

Call for further details  
**0121 421 7001**

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

## Express & Star DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To Place your advert call: **0844 381 5936**

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** FREE Standard Network rates apply.

**YOU** can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

**THE** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet you... visit... **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**SARAH** black lady, works as a nurse. 48yrs young, hoping to meet a younger man for some fun. Let me be your cougar and dress me up in my uniform. Text Only. Box: 4168063

**PETITE** lady WLTm smart sixty something cultured gentleman, with GSOH for friendship and companionship. Must be honest. Text only replies. 6130550 Box: 429667

**MELANIE**, attractive lady, 38yrs, hoping to meet a nice chap, any age, for chats, non complicated times. Must have great sox, looks unimportant. Text Only. Box: 4037147

**IZZY**, 52, fun dizzy female, free again, looking for fun and adventure, WLTm someone to care for. It could be you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429695

**ANNA**, 53yrs, attractive blonde lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721

**ALISON**, 38, attractive slim, mature student, passionate about history, seeks older male for good conversation, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429667

**AMANDA**, 36yrs, attractive lady. Solvent and well educated and spoken. Feminine figure with large breasts. Hoping to meet a broad minded gent, any age for discreet relationship. I don't mind if you are married or single. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box: 429287

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**ZENA**, 41yrs Sagittarian lady. Tall brunette with striking blue eyes. WLTm man 40+ for dates, getting out and about, nights in, everything really. NSA AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429755

**JULIE**, 49yrs, recently divorced, own house car etc. Seeks discreet man for daytime meetings while the kids are at school. Week days only. I will reply to all texts. Text Only. Box: 4136824

**LINDA**, mature artistic lady. Sensitive and attractive. Sensual romantic personality. WLTm similar. Call me if that's you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429753

**TABITHA**, Jamaican princess! 42yrs, large curvy figure, fabulous sense of humour and very open minded to fun. Hoping to chat to anyone with GSOH. Looks/age/status unimportant. Text Only. Box: 4116607

**TINA**, black lady, curvy figure. Homely and kind. If you want love and friendship, look no further, phone me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429751

**YAZ**, Asian lady, 32yrs, very slim and pretty. Hoping to meet a strong minded, dominant, resourceful man. Mature please 45+ Text Only. Box: 4177148

**RETIRE**d lady, attractive and kind, WLTm a warm hearted gentleman for friendship, socialising. AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429749

**SOPHIE**, 46yrs, attractive professional lady with time on her hands. Hoping to meet a nice gent of any age, text fun, flirt, possible meeting. Text Only. Box: 4126579

**LIZA**, attractive lady seeks male 55-70. I'm attractive with OHAC and will return all calls and texts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429747

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**FEMALE**, divorced, 58yrs old, looking for a nice man, non-smoker, clean-shaven. I enjoy walking, meals in/out, musical shows and much more. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5662627

**PAMELA**, mature presentable lady, well educated, solvent, very young at heart. Hoping to meet presentable call. Call me. Or text if you prefer. I promise to get back to you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429329

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**LINDA**, late 50s lady, promises to call you back if you text or call. She's attractive and waiting to meet you. You must be 40+ with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429325

**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

**ATTRACTIVE** widowed lady, 70yrs but looks much much younger. GSOH, fun loving. WLTm man 67+ for loving tender relationship. AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429327

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretionary. AKA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

**JACKIE** 40, slim easygoing blonde, works too hard, needs sincere male to help live up her free time. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429381

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533

**HEATHER**, single, very attractive brunette, 34, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429647

**ANGELA**, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busy with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633

**JAN** 47, once bitten twice shy! Just looking for a nice guy to chat to. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429453

**MARIELLE**, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853

**SARAH** 35, recently divorced, slim 5ft 7ins, pretty, seeks male up to 50yrs for meals out hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429385

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**DEBBIE** 38, fit size 12, discreet, WLTm intelligent man for fun relationship with no ties. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429417

**YOUR regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

To Reply to members call:

**0906 500 3955**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts e-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in** promptly when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To Reply by text:

Text...REPLY26 (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to 80098 eg: REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch... then send to 80098 Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.



Dates in YOUR region

Been left a message? Pick up your replies on:

**0906 500 3957**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

## DATE LOCALLY

Drop in to see who is free for a date!

Members in the cafe now waiting to chat to you!

TEXT **CAFE** to **89990**

Texts to 89990 cost £1.50 per msg. To STOP text stop to 89990 Service provided by JMediaUK Ltd RH16 3EG If you need

**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

**VALERIE**, caring thoughtful lady. Attractive with GSOH. Seeking similar gent. AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429163

**JAN** 47, once bitten twice shy! Just looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429453

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

**JULIE**, attractive early 40s brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429401

**HEY ladies!** Want to know more? Send me a text! Text only replies. 4461945

**JEFF**, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175

**MALE**, mid 50s, N/S, semi retired, slim build, likes walking, holidays, occasional drinks, films, good chats, enjoys, looking to meet a female, N/S, 50 plus, for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429637

**TALL**, dark, attractive Shropshire male, 57, WLTm an attractive female, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. Any age or status. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429301

**MATTHEW**, 38, Christian, regular church goer, seeks like-minded lady. Seeks non-smoker, kind, honest lady for LTR. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6134936

**ROYSTON**, 65, first time advertiser, West Brom based, tall, very fit and agile, N/S, car owner, seeks lady for going out, relationship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429725

**GENUINE** male, 39, short dark hair, 5ft 8ins. Enjoys sport, gym, walking, nights out, cinema. Hoping to meet genuine female. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5338852

**SINGLE** man, 56yrs, 5'10, average build, looking to meet lady for fun times. Nothing complicated. Bored housewives welcome. Text only replies. 6134456

**MALE**, 60 & married, seeks lady, any age/status etc for discreet one to one liaison. Text only replies. 4252649



Members in the cafe now waiting to chat to you!

TEXT **CAFE** to **89990**

Texts to 89990 cost £1.50 per msg. To STOP text stop to 89990 Service provided by JMediaUK Ltd RH16 3EG If you need

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 56, 6ft, WLTm an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109

**HI** I am a single Indian male in my 50s, and would like to meet a mature female 55+ for a NSA friendship. Text only replies. Box no: 4627019

**WALSALL** male, looking for no strings adult fun, with lady of any nationality, colour or age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428773

**MALE**, age 68, very active looking for lady for NSA fun. Can accommodate. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026972

**EASYGOING** likeable man likes a drink at the pub, and nights in front of the telly and a cuddle, looking for lady 45-55. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6066059

**DERBY** male, young 57, looking for uncared, unloved married woman looking for discreet adult fun 35-55. Txt me for a good time. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5321154

**MALE** seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695

**ADVENTUROUS** 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**COLIN**, 50, seeks kind, caring, loving lady for LTR and LTR and love. Likes cuddles and kisses. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6091169

**RETIRED** fitness instructor 65, would like to meet lady for friendship, company, on a regular basis. First ever advert. Beeston area. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6118348

**GENT**, 65, seeks discreet lady, for special times, mutually beneficial to both, with that special lady. Wolverhampton, and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427529

**STEVE**, 43 years old, 5ft 7ins, slim, non-smoker, smart casual dresser would like to meet a similar lady. Age and looks unimportant. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6116902

**MATURE**, oriental female sought by easygoing male, 73, for NSA friendship. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6117412

**AMATEUR** photographer, single, seeking bored broad-minded lady to have some discreet fun with a camera. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6109868

**100%** genuine, good looking blue eyed guy, 40s, looking to meet a black or mixed race lady, for romance and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428913

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

## Customer support

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

CALL CHARGES\*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT\*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to [www.localdates-terms.co.uk/](http://www.localdates-terms.co.uk/). REPLY BY TEXT\*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES\*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, RH16 3EG, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app, your ad may also appear on our dating app. wc. 08/01/18

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

Post to...  
**Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG**



## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to **£250**  
**VISIT:**

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### Funeral Directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### Monumental Masons

**HALESTONE MEMORIALS**  
Modern and traditional memorials  
Ring for FREE brochure  
**0121 550 4235**  
Or visit our showroom at  
Somers Road,  
Halesowen B62 8EN  
[www.halestonememorials.co.uk](http://www.halestonememorials.co.uk)

### Lost & Found

**LOST**—Apple iPad, in black  
leather case, Codsall, Bilbrook  
area. Thursday, December 28.  
Please call 07973 114473.



**MISSING FROM**  
**STIRLING ROAD, BILSTON**  
Female Yorkshire Terrier  
cross Chihuahua, 4 years old,  
black, tan and grey, very  
timid/shy.  
Escaped from car.  
Microchipped.

Really missed so please call  
07511 693361/07707 202717

**1**

### Family

### Elderly & Disabled

**MOBILITY SCOOTER**  
Mobility scooter little gem  
3.75mph carries 150 kilos good  
batteries dismantles to fit in car  
boot.  
£275 ono  
07703 460744

**MOBILITY SHOP RIDER** Scooter,  
good condition, good batteries, fits  
in car. £150. 01902 405640.

**WRECKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2**

### Leisure Time

### Caravans Wanted

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS**  
**07717 280 996**  
[www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk)

### Caravans/ Motorhomes



**Caravans from £10,995**  
**Near Aberystwyth**  
12 months owner season! Amazing  
facilities, funding options available  
from 10% deposit (T&C's apply)  
Call Ciaran on 07542456117  
or email  
[CiaranAndrewWilliams@outlook.com](mailto:CiaranAndrewWilliams@outlook.com)

### holidays

### Travel Abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertiser  
that their holiday costs are fully  
covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

### Jumble Sales / Fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday, 14th January  
Next Sale: January 28  
**KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, DY7 6ER**  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

### Music Shop

**BASS GUITARIST/** Singer, age 59,  
wishes to join 60's / country band.  
07828 196505.

### Sports & Leisure

**Free Ads**

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
**bookanad.**  
[expressandstar.co.uk](http://expressandstar.co.uk)

### what's on

### Antique Fairs

**\* ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR \***  
**CORNHALL, HAGLEY STREET,**  
**HALESOWEN, B63 3AT**  
**FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY**  
**8:30 AM - 3 PM**  
**07783 680 627**

**3**

### Home & Services

### Antiques

**QUALITY VICTORIAN** Mahogany,  
Grandmother clock, lovely face,  
£425. 07792 065394.

### Collectables & Memorabilia

**500 CD'S** Excellent condition, 1970's  
to present, range of musical tastes,  
all in original cases. £100 ono.  
07881 780453.

**THREE RAILWAY** 5 road lamps, 15  
illustrated books and 70 maga-  
zines, 3 brass gauges, £250 ono.  
07734 314157. 0121 559 4321.

### Furniture

**DURESTA SOFA** large three seater,  
frame in excellent condition, ideal  
for re-upholstering. £200 ono. Must  
collect. 01902 783736.

### Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
That the Business Advertise-  
ments (Disclosure) Order of  
1977 requires that advertise-  
ments must clearly differentiate  
between Private and Trade.

**CARD MAKERS & Scrapbookers**,  
for sale Dies and embossing  
folders, paper cards, cd roms, over  
100 items, £45. 01902 830 978

**DOUBLE MATTRESS**, memory  
foam, as new, never opened, £60.  
07951 533963.

**ELECTRIC SNOW BLOWER**  
unused due to illness, £70.  
01902 892395.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your adver-  
tisement today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or inac-  
curacies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

### Items Wanted

#### A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/  
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/  
any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)



#### AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

**SHELL, ESSO,  
CASTROL ETC**  
ALSO

#### GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs,  
Petrol Cans,  
Old Jugs,  
Bikes and Motorbikes.  
Anything old.

**\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\***  
01384 836219/07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to  
carefully consider all the options  
before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus  
any Spectrum 128k+2 computer  
wanted also any old Crash or your  
Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

**WANTED**  
**VINTAGE TAMMYA REMOTE CONTROL MODELS**

Also any old radio controlled  
models in any condition,  
Mardave, Kyochu, Traxxas, HPI  
Team Associated, Schumacher  
Big or small collections bought.

07568 585075 or  
0121 532 2544.

### Loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require profes-  
sional advice before entering into  
obligations.

### specialists at your service

### Aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
**AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99**  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029  
**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST**  
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV  
wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

**CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

**Express & Star BUSINESS AWARDS 2018**

**Could you be Tradesperson of the Year?**

To find out how, go to:  
[businessawards.expressandstar.com](http://businessawards.expressandstar.com)

### CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!



"I am very pleased  
with the response  
I get from my  
Classified  
Advertising  
Contract"

**Steve -**  
**AA Digital Aerials**

For great business  
results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

### Alarms/Security

### PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

### Bathrooms

**CHANGING ROOMS**  
IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING YOUR HOME  
**Is bathing becoming difficult?**  
Let us make life easier  
Easy Access! Wet Room Specialists  
Showroom at 47A Kent Street, Dudley  
01902 670426

### Building Services

**G & D BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years exp  
All aspects of building work  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
All work guaranteed  
**07837 994465 / 01902 579592**

### Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards **£695**  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

### Removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your  
Removal needs. 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

### Roofing

**MG ROOFING**  
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs,  
Fascias and Gutters.  
Call **01902 238989 /**  
**07580 465449.**  
[www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk)

### Rubbish Removal

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips  
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste,  
House Clearance. 07969 628382

### Skip Hire

**Grinsells Skip Hire LTD**  
Mini, Midi, Maxi, Large Skips.  
Monday to Friday.  
Saturday half day.  
**0121 555 6060**

### t.v. / home entertainment

### Service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,  
CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts  
and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

### 4 Pets & Animals

### Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies  
have the required Passport infor-  
mation.

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

### Oven Cleaning

**Express & Star**

**OVEN CLEANERS!**

**CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT**  
(T&Cs Apply)

**Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661**  
[claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk)



**Pets Corner**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**CAVAPOO PUPPIES** X 2 vet checked, 1st vacc, microchipped, Mother & Father can be seen, both parents health screened from £750. 07572 646526.

**WANTED** Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business directory**

**Storage**

**STORAGE GARAGE WS6** Security post, 247 access, £70p/cm. £100 Deposit. 07748 527049

**Business Opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

**6 Property**

**Properties Wanted**

**We buy houses**  
**Sell your house fast**

- avoid repossession
  - behind on payments
  - job relocation
  - unwanted inheritance
- What more - we buy in any condition**  
**No estate agent fees**  
**We pay all your legal fees**

**ACT NOW!**  
Contact us on:  
**07796 801219 / 07988 882090**

**Accommodation To Let**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**A SMART SINGLE ROOM** in a Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

**ETTINGSHALL PARK** one bed furnished flat, quiet area, parking, maintained gardens. 01902 883037.

**ONE BED** studio flat, Cradley Road, Netherton, DY2 9PJ, very nice condition, £85pw. 07850 589620.

**Flats for sale**

**GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT**

Two bedroom,

Situated in the village of Penn.

Large parking area.

Drastically reduced for quick sale.

£96,000 ono.

01902 331155.

**Overseas Property**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**7 Jobs**

**Full Time General**



**WE ARE NOW RECRUITING!**

**SUPPORT WORKERS £8.00ph**  
**SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS £9.00ph**

**FULL TIME & PART TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Apply today:

**www.inshoresupportltd.co.uk**

or call **Stephanie on 01384 421460**  
for an application pack



**Windsor High School and Sixth Form**

**Site Assistant**

**37 hours per week, All Year Round**  
**Scale 2 points 11 - 13 (£15,788 - £16,555) dependent upon experience**

We require a Site Assistant with a flexible approach to work and a 'can-do' and friendly attitude to join our established, experienced Site team.

Applicants should possess a high level of all round maintenance ability along with excellent problem solving and time-management skills.

Reporting to the Site Manager, you will have day to day responsibility for security of premises, maintenance (internal/external), compliance, facility preparation and the general operational requirements of school and related Trust activities.

You must have a full clean driving licence and be willing to work flexibly. You will be a key holder and required to participate in emergency on-call duties. You will form part of a rotational, 4 way working shift pattern operating between 5.15am - 9.00pm to include sequenced Saturday working and the potential for rotational Sunday facility letting cover (paid at an additional premium).

For an application pack and full details of the role please visit our website,  
**www.windsor.windsoracademytrust.org.uk**  
or contact Sue Cooper, Personnel Administrator on 0121 550 1452.

**Closing date for applications:**  
**Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 12.30 pm**

*Windsor High School and Sixth Form is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS.*

**TAXI OFFICE OPERATOR** Dudley area. Knowledge of local area and own transport would be an advantage. Experience preferred but not essential. Main hours, Fri/Sat 17.00 - 01.00. Email: ali.waterfrontcars@live.co.uk

**Employment Wanted**

**MAN 69** Active, seeking work, honest, reliable, trustworthy, Black-country guy. Anything considered. 07703 460744.

**Electricians**

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN required**

Well established Halesowen based firm. Commercial, Industrial & Residential. 20 days Holiday, pension, uniform & overtime. Working Monday to Friday 07.00-16.00. **COMPETITIVE SALARY** CV to **lisa@starkeyelectrical.co.uk** 0121 423 3883. Subcontracting opportunities also available.

**Drivers**

**CLASS 1 DRIVERS** Tramping. Nights out. Good rates. Call Dave 07405 281618 / 07837 202763.

**8 Motoring**

**Cars Under £1500**



**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO**

2007. 62,000 Miles, 1598cc 16v petrol electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, long MoT, central locking, CD, very good condition

£1,499

07879403302

**BARGAIN**

**FORD KA STYLE**

2008, MoT, low miles, history, black, PAS, EW, lovely condition, drives superb, looks superb, CD.

£795

07548 398841.



**JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5**

2001, 97,000 miles. Silver, automatic, recently new brakes all round, new battery, fully serviced, MoT till March. £700.

01902 739188.

**4X4**

**MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT SE**

Dual fuel, 2.4cc, MoT, 04 model, automatic, 4x4, black leather interior, silver, two sun-roofs, one electric, AC, EW, EM, CL, fully alarmed, factory fitted tow bar, new gas system fitted, only 55p per litre gas.

£1,995 o.n.o

07979 784585.

**Cars Over £1500**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**

2007.57 1.4TDCi 64,000 miles, Full Service History, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, alarm long Mot Superb condition.

£1,995

01902 744023.



**MINI COOPER**

2005, 63,600 miles, silver, part leather interior, panoramic electric roof MoT November 18, 6 disc CD,

£1,850 ono

07572 554829.

**EXCELLENT CONDITION**

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA**

2.0CDTi 16V SRI

5-dr, auto, silver, 2012.

£4,995

01902 895481.

**Classic Cars**

**WANTED, CLASSIC** Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

**Vehicles Wanted**

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

**alan reed cars**

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call. **01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**Scrap Vehicles**

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

**9 Local Information**

**Public Notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

**Marie Hogg on**  
**01902 713146**  
**or email marie.hogg@**  
**expressandstar.co.uk**

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**10 Personals**

**Personal**



**GENTLEMAN**

Would like to meet another Gent for friendship, holidays, fun and outings.

**Box Number P21035 ,**

**Express and Star,**

**Queen Street,**

**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**



**NEW YEAR, NEW START GENUINE, ATTRACTIVE, SLIM MAN**

54, caring, GSOH, WLTM genuine lady, 40-58 for friendship, fun days and evenings out, cosy nights in.

**Box Number P21033,**

**Express and Star,**

**Queen Street,**

**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**WIDOWER LATE 70'S**

Own house and car.

WLTM a lady preferably a driver, with a happy outlook and good GSOH, to be my constant companion and share my life.

West side of Wolverhampton preferred, Penn, Castlecroft, Tettenhall, Albrighton, Shifnal, Codsall, Fordhouses.

**Box Number P21038,**

**Express and Star,**

**Queen Street,**

**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL**

**01902 317878**



**Classified Ads**

**Most ads are legal, decent, honest and truthful.**

In 2016, the ASA removed 4,824 that weren't.



**Yes! HOME BUYERS**  
THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE

**We Buy Houses For Cash**

Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

Get your **FREE**, instant cash offer today!



Call **0121 663 1403**

or text "Cash" to 66777 **yeshomebuyers.com**



# Volvo's XC40 is a breath of fresh air

By Tom Wiltshire

The XC40 is Volvo's new compact SUV – and note that the company calls it an SUV, and not a crossover. With high ground clearance, four-wheel drive available and “the proportions of an SUV”, this is less of a jacked-up hatchback and more of a scaled-down XC60.

The new baby of the Volvo range is also the brand's first entrant into this massively popular market sector, and with its fashioned design it aims straight at the heart of the territory the Range Rover Evoque has occupied so well.

The XC40 sits upon a brand-new platform that will go on to underpin several future models of the Swedish firm's range. Called CMA (Compact Modular Architecture), it will allow Volvo to offer the XC40 with not just petrol and diesel engines, but hybrid and even pure electric powertrains.

Occupying a market sector the firm hasn't entered before, the XC40 is by definition all-new, though items have been borrowed from across Volvo's range of 60 and 90 series cars.

Volvo's also using the XC40 to launch a new way of owning your car. Named Care by Volvo, it's more akin to a phone contract than a standard PCP or contract hire – owners pay Volvo a monthly fee which covers ownership of the vehicle and almost every other expense – tax, maintenance, and insurance. It also allows users to ‘borrow’ a larger car for up to 14 days a year. Currently only available within the M25, care by Volvo will roll out across the country if demand is strong enough.

We had the opportunity to sample both T5 petrol and D4 diesel models, both mated to eight-speed automatic gearboxes. The

2.0-litre petrol, though smooth and powerful, is noisy when pressed, and with high fuel consumption it's unlikely to be a big seller.

Instead, Volvo expects the bulk of sales to come from diesel models. Though grumbly at low speeds, the diesel engine soon quiets down at a cruise, and with 187bhp on tap it has more than enough shove for cutthroat city driving or long motorway journeys.

Initially, these will be the only two engines available, though later in 2018 Volvo will launch lower-powered engines – a 148bhp D3 diesel and 154bhp and 187bhp T3 and T3 petrols. All but T3 and D3 engines are offered with standard all-wheel drive and eight-speed autos – lower powered engines get front-wheel drive and six-speed manual gearboxes.

Ride comfort is excellent, even on the optional 19-inch wheels of our test car.

No compact SUV could reasonably be called a design triumph, but the XC40 is arguably one of the best of the bunch. Neat proportions give it a pleasingly rugged stance, and it's chock-full of neat detailing inside and out, like the tiny Swedish flag adornment on the corner of the bonnet.

Volvo's bold corporate grille dominates the front, flanked by eye-catching ‘Thors Hammer’ LED daytime running lights. Standard LED headlights ensure even base-spec Momentum cars look premium.

The XC40 is available with a wide array of paint colours including dual-tone combinations. Stylish alloy wheel designs stand out from the crowd too.

Step into an XC40 from a Range Rover Evoque and you'll be floored. The Volvo's interior is a genuinely lovely place to be, with great-quality materials and superbly comfortable seats even on base-spec cars.

The centre console is arranged around



Neat proportions give the XC40 a pleasantly rugged stance and it's chock-full of neat detailing inside and out

Volvo's nine-inch portrait-oriented touchscreen infotainment system. It's slick and works well. The company's main goal for the XC40's interior was to carve out storage spaces wherever possible – and it's achieved it. There's even a superbly engineered ‘curry hook’, which folds down from the glovebox to keep your Tikka Masala safely hung up rather than slopping around on the floor.

The clever touches continue in the boot, with a multifunctional false floor that can hide the parcel shelf, hang up bags and keep shopping from rolling around all at the same time. The boot itself is decently large at 460 litres, while six-footers will be able to sit comfortably in the rear.

Equipment levels are impressive. All cars come with LED headlights, navigation and a 12.3-inch digital dial display.

Three trim levels will be on offer in the UK – base-spec Momentum, sporty R-Design and flagship Inscription. Each also gains a ‘Pro’ variant, aimed at fleet buyers who may want choice equipment without delving into the options list.

R-Design adds leather and Nubuck upholstery, a sports chassis and racy alloy wheels, while Inscription switches aluminium dashboard inserts for wood, adds chrome around the window trim and adds a crystal to the gearknob. Safety kit is also generous, with autonomous braking capable of detecting

vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and even large animals. Spec the optional Intellisafe Assist pack and you'll benefit from adaptive cruise control with Volvo's brilliant Pilot Assist semi-autonomous driving system, which takes the sting out of motorway stints.

The XC40 is a breath of fresh air in a market sector that's quickly becoming bloated. It's neat exterior and wonderful interior are sure to earn it admiring glances, and it's every bit as impressive on the road as its main rivals.

Generous standard equipment and a predicted class-leading residual value is great too.

Model: Volvo XC40 D4.  
Price as tested: £35,705



## T WALL - USED CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE



	NOW		NOW
13/13 FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC 3 DR, RED, 46,000 MILES .....	£4,995	14/14 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE 5 DR, BLACK, 47,000 MILES .....	£8,195
10/59 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3 DR, WHITE, 33,000 MILES .....	£4,995	14/14 VOLKSWAGON POLO 1.2 MATCH 5 DR, SILVER, 8,000 MILES .....	£8,495
12/62 FIAT PANDA 0.9 TWINAIR LOUNGE 5 DR, BLUE, 30,000 MILES .....	£5,295	15/15 NISSAN NOTE 1.3 ACENTA PREMIUM 5 DR, GREY, 17,000 MILES .....	£8,495
14/64 VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 SE 5 DR, BLUE, 33,000 MILES .....	£5,695	11/61 CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.6 HDI 5 DR, AUTO, GOLD, 18,000 MILES ..	£8,695
14/14 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5 DR, WHITE, 22,000 MILES .....	£6,195	13/13 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 360 5 DR, WHITE, 60,000 MILES .....	£9,495
10/60 VOLKSWAGON POLO 1.2 SE 5 DR, BLACK, 32,000 MILES .....	£6,395	12/62 VOLKSWAGON GOLF 1.4 TSI 2 DR, WHITE, CONVERTIBLE, 50,000 MILES ..	£9,495
11/11 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 5 DR, RED, 17,000 MILES .....	£6,495	16/16 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI SRI 5 DR, RED, 44,000 MILES .....	£9,995
06/65 HYUNDAI I10 1.2 SE 5 DR, WHITE, 26,000 MILES .....	£6,995	14/14 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 COOPER S, ALL 4 .P, 5 DR, WHITE, 43,000 MILES	£10,195
14/14 FIAT 500 1.2 S 3 DR, BLUE, 22,000 MILES .....	£6,995	16/65 MAZDA 6 2.2D SE – L NAV 4 DR, WHITE, 35,000 MILES .....	£12,295
11/11 NISSAN LEAF ELECTRIC AUTO 5 DR, BLUE, 36,000 MILES .....	£6,995	16/65 MAZDA 6 2.2D SE – L NAV, AUTOMATIC GREY, 36,000 MILES .....	£12,395
12/12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE 5 DR, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, 40,000 MILES .....	£6,995	12/12 MERCEDES C-CLASS C220 CDI 4 DR, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, 53,000 MILES	£12,495
15/64 KIA RIO 1.2 S VR7 5 DR, SILVER, 19,000 MILES .....	£7,295	15/65 MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV ESTATE SILVER, 36,000 MILES .....	£12,795
12/12 TOYOTA YARIS 1.33 VVTI AUTOMATIC 5 DR, WHITE, 30,000 MILES .....	£7,295	15/15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5 DR, 2WD, BLACK, 15,000 MILES .....	£14,995
14/14 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 2 5 DR, SILVER, 37,000 MILES .....	£7,495	16/16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI N-TEC 4WD 5 DR, BLACK, 32,000 MILES .....	£16,995
14/14 FIAT 500L 1.4 POP STAR 5 DR, RED, 20,000 MILES .....	£7,795	<b>COMMERCIAL VEHICLES</b>	
15/15 VOLKSWAGON UP 1.0 HIGH UP 5 DR, BLACK, 23,000 MILES .....	£7,895	17/17 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 SPORTIVE LWB, SILVER, 5,000 MILES .....	£14,995 + VAT
13/13 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTI SRI 3 DR, RED, 39,000 MILES .....	£7,995	15/65 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 SPORTIVE LWB, BLACK 17,000 MILES .....	£12,995 + VAT

**Please note:- Other vehicles available please ask**

Please contact Craig or Howard  
**T Wall Garages**  
 01384 288333  
 www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,  
 Kingswinford  
 DY6 8XB  
 1 Mile from Russells Hall  
 Hospital, towards Kingswinford

Award winning family-run business – established 1953

Motability Premier Dealer



VAUXHALL





Scénic and Grand Scénic are the first models to get TCE

# Renault announces pricing for new petrol engine in Scénics

## Oak Garage.co.uk

Sales Line Open Tonight Call Steve 07747 633329



Only 200 Yards From Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

### Low Mileage

64 Ford B-max 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec Red Only 6000 Miles	<b>£9,495</b>
64 Citroen Berlingo Diesel 1.6 HDi 90 VTR Blue Only 7000 Miles	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Citroen DS3 1.6 VTi 16V DStyle Plus 3dr Mauve 7000 Miles	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Vauxhall Astra Gtc Coupe 1.4T 140 Sport 3dr Auto Red 9000 Miles	<b>£8,495</b>
66 Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.4T Design Silver Only 10000 Miles	<b>£13,495</b>
14 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec Powershift Red Only 11000 Miles	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Nissan Micra 1.2 Acenta CVT Red Only 12000 Miles	<b>£7,995</b>
65 Citroen C4 Picasso Sp Editions 1.6 BlueHdi Sel White 12000 Miles	<b>£11,995</b>
Citroen	
63 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTi 16V Exclusive EGS6 Blue 14k	<b>£7,995</b>
60 Citroen C3 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi 8V Airdream+ Green 61k	<b>£4,295</b>
14 Citroen C3 Picasso Estate 1.6 VTi 16V Exclusive White 19k	<b>£7,995</b>
62 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi Platinum White 28k	<b>£8,495</b>
64 Citroen C4 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi VTR+ Blue 19k	<b>£9,495</b>
06 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	<b>£9,995</b>
58 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto White 64K	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Citroen DS3 Diesel 1.6 BlueHdi DSport Plus White 30k	<b>£8,795</b>
64 Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Excl Black 22k	<b>£12,495</b>
Ford	
62 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82] White 50k	<b>£4,995</b>
14 Ford Focus 1.6 125 Titanium Navigator Powershift Blue 25k	<b>£8,995</b>
14 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec Navigator ECONetic Black 98k	<b>£5,995</b>
59 Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Titanium Blue 53k	<b>£4,695</b>
60 Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Silver 60k	<b>£4,295</b>
64 Ford Grand C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Zetec Brown 17k	<b>£10,495</b>
64 Ford S-max 1.6 TDCi Zetec [Start Stop] Silver 37k	<b>£10,995</b>
64 Ford S-max Diesel Estate 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium Blue 33k	<b>£13,995</b>
Nissan	
61 Nissan Juke 1.6 Acenta [Premium Pack] Silver 61k	<b>£6,795</b>
64 Nissan Juke Diesel Hatchback 1.5 dCi Acenta Silver 14k	<b>£8,995</b>
12 Nissan Juke Hatchback 1.6 Acenta Red 27k	<b>£7,495</b>
15 Nissan Micra Hatchback 1.2 Visia White 18k	<b>£5,695</b>
64 Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Acenta Premium Auto Red 20k	<b>£8,495</b>
64 Nissan Note Diesel Hatchback 1.5 dCi Tekna Blue 38k	<b>£7,495</b>
64 Nissan Note Hatchback 1.2 DiG-S Acenta Premium Red 22k	<b>£7,795</b>
62 Nissan Note Special Editions 1.4 N-Tec+ Silver 43k	<b>£5,795</b>
64 Nissan Qashqai 1.2 DiG-T Acenta [Smart Vision Pack] Silver 24k	<b>£11,495</b>
14 Nissan Qashqai 1.2 DiG-T Acenta [Smart Vision] Beige 29k	<b>£11,495</b>
64 Nissan Qashqai Diesel 1.5 dCi Acenta Smart Vision White 50k	<b>£10,995</b>

Sales Line Open Tonight Call Steve 07747 633329

### Peugeot

64 Peugeot 2008 Diesel Estate 1.4 HDi Active Grey 30k	<b>£7,995</b>
11 Peugeot 3008 Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi 112 Active EGC Silver 59k	<b>£5,495</b>
64 Peugeot 3008 Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi Active Grey 29k	<b>£9,495</b>
14 Peugeot 3008 Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi Active Silver 13k	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Peugeot 308 Diesel Sw Estate 1.6 HDi 92 Active Grey 19k	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Peugeot 5008 Diesel Estate 1.6 e-HDi Allure EGC Grey 37k	<b>£10,995</b>

### Renault

64 Renault Captur 1.5 dCi 90 Dynam S MediaNav Cream/black 31k	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 90 Dynamique MediaNav EDC Black 44k	<b>£7,995</b>
64 Renault Clio Diesel 1.5 dCi 90 Dynam MediaNav Energy Red 48k	<b>£6,995</b>
14 Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom Energy Beige 16k	<b>£8,995</b>

### Vauxhall

64 Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi 16V Elite Brown 39k	<b>£7,995</b>
64 Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi Design Blue 29k	<b>£9,995</b>
11 Vauxhall Meriva Estate 1.4i 16V Exclusiv Blue 22k	<b>£4,995</b>
64 Vauxhall Mokka Diesel 1.7 CDTi SE 5dr Auto Black 30k	<b>£10,995</b>
64 Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.4T Tech Line Auto Red 43k	<b>£10,995</b>

### Others

10 Hyundai I20 Special Editions 1.2 Edition 3dr Red 21k	<b>£4,295</b>
64 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 White 25k	<b>£11,495</b>
64 Mercedes-benz B Class B180 CDI Sport Black 36k	<b>£11,995</b>
64 Mitsubishi Asx Estate 1.6 2 Red 18k	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Mitsubishi Mirage Hatchback 1.2 3 5dr CVT Green 23k	<b>£6,995</b>
14 Skoda Octavia Diesel 1.6 TDI CR Elegance Brown 42k	<b>£9,995</b>
14 Skoda Yeti Estate 1.2 TSI SE 5dr DSG Green 51k	<b>£9,495</b>
64 Volkswagen Golf Cabriolet 1.6 TDI BlueMotion Tech SE Blue 49k	<b>£10,495</b>
64 Volkswagen Golf Diesel Hatch 1.6 TDI 105 Match Blue 36k	<b>£9,995</b>
14 Volvo V40 Diesel D2 Cross Country Lux Powershift Bronze 24k	<b>£10,995</b>

SCHEDULE YOUR

## Test Drive

Finance Arranged Within 60 Mins



So many cars - Find yours.

## www.oakgarage.co.uk

Unit 1, Sterling Park, Brierley Hill DY5 1TB

Tel: 01384 906030

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 9-6, Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun: 10-4

Renault has announced UK pricing for the new direct injection turbocharged petrol engine that will first launch in the Scénic and Grand Scénic line-up. The new Energy TCE engine will be offered in other models from 2018. Pricing for the new engine in the Scénic line-up starts from £22,005 on-the-road. Orders for the new Scénic and Grand Scénic with Energy TCE 115 and TCE 140 outputs are now with first customer deliveries expected during February.

This new engine offers a significant improvement in driving pleasure, with increased torque at low revs and greater and constant availability at high revs, while reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

The new 1.3-litre petrol engine, coupled with manual and EDC dual-clutch automatic transmissions, incorporates several recent Alliance-developed innovations, including Bore Spray Coating which improves efficiency by reducing friction and optimising heat transfer. Other technologies enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions: the pressure of the direct fuel injection has been raised to 250 bar and a specific



### The 1.3-litre engine offers lower CO2 emissions

combustion chamber design optimises the fuel/air mix. In addition, 'Dual Variable Timing Camshaft' technology controls the intake and exhaust valves according to engine loads. The result is increased torque at low revs with more available linearly at high revs, for a benefit in driving comfort and better mid-range response.

The Energy TCE 140 engine has a CO2 output of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg (NEDC combined cycle) (51.4mpg for Grand Scénic). The TCE 140 engine receives 240Nm of torque at 1,600 rpm. Meanwhile, the Energy TCE 115 – available in manual transmission only – has 220Nm of torque at 1,500 rpm with CO2 emissions of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg (NEDC combined) (50.4mpg for Grand Scénic). These figures result in a reduction in CO2 by 7 grams on Scénic and 11 grams on Grand Scénic compared to the previous petrol units.

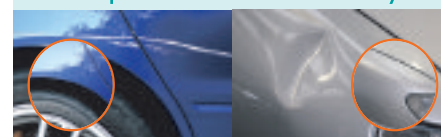
The Scénic and Grand Scénic are the first Renault models to benefit from this new petrol engine. The Scénic range is also available in three diesel power outputs – dCi 110 (from £22,565 OTR), dCi 130 (from £23,605 OTR) and dCi 160 (from £29,305 OTR). The dCi 110 engine is also available as a Hybrid Assist version with a 10kW electric motor powered by a 48-volt 150Wh battery (from £25,055 OTR).

## Express Repairs for Minor Accident Damage



✓ Bumper scuffs

✓ Kerbed alloys



✓ Paintwork scratches

✓ Dented panels

Local: 01384 429568

Mobile: 07500 858428

Email us: halesowen@chipsaway.co.uk

www.chipsawayhalesowen.co.uk

Visit us: Unit 9 Lye Valley Industrial Estate, Bromley Street, Lye DY9 8HX



**ChipsAway**  
Scratches and scuffs won't dent your pocket

Free Estimates • Lifetime Guarantee • Most Repairs Completed in One Day





Walsall's goalscorers Darren Byfield and Don celebrate winning the Nationwide League Division Two play off final at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff Sunday May 27, 2001



The Don, in his West Bromwich Albion colours in a four-year stint during which he scored 60 goals



Wolves match winner Don celebrates after his winning goal gave Wolves FA Cup quarter final victory over Leeds at Elland Road in 1998. But then Arsenal spoiled the party



Former Wolves manager, the late Graham Taylor with new signings John de Wolf and Don Goodman at Molineux in 1994



With his former Wolves strike partner, Steve Bull, Don took part in a charity golf event which was held at Shifnal Golf Club in May last year

# Yorkshire's Don was Black Country at heart

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Masi

**FEW** players can claim to have won the hearts of both Wolves and Albion fans, but few scored goals like Don Goodman.

It is 24 years since then Wolves boss Graham Taylor splashed out £1.1million to sign the striker from Sunderland, bringing him back to the Black Country three years after leaving The Hawthorns.

He had been a huge hit with the Baggies, scoring 63 goals in 163 appearances, and while his time at Wolves was a little less prolific – 39 goals in 154 games – it built to a crescendo that saw him net an FA Cup quarter-final winner against Leeds in his final season.

Born in Leeds on May 9, 1966, only weeks before the whole nation were partying having lifted the World Cup, Goodman was perhaps destined to become a footballer. 'The Don' started his career with Bradford City in 1984, but it was in the Black Country that the striker really made a name for himself, impressing Ron Saunders enough to fork out £50,000 in March 1987.

### Avoided

He made his debut against Oldham later that month and, a few weeks later, netted his first goal in a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace.

Just seven league goals would follow in 1987/88 as Albion narrowly avoided relegation from the old Division Two, but 1988/89 (15) and 1989/90 (21) would prove to be better campaigns on a personal level.

However, Goodman's love affair with the Baggies became shaky in 1991 as he made a £900,000 move to Sunderland. Goodman has since explained that Albion's decision to sell him was purely for the financial benefit of the club as they made a handsome profit on what they paid Bradford for him.

His three-year stay at Roker Park saw him net 42 goals in 116 appearances, but soon after the Black Cats' relegation to the third tier he was on his way back to the West Midlands, brought in by Taylor on



Last year, Don was one of the football luminaries at a 'Smile for Joel' event. Back from left, Joe Mayo, Ally Robertson, Matt Murray, Don, Ray Graydon. Front, from left, Darren Wrack, Joel's brother Owen Richards, and mother Suzy Richards, with ex-Wolves' Mel Eves and John Richards

the same day as John de Wolf from Feyenoord. Partnering either Steve Bull or David Kelly up front, he helped guide Wolves to the play-offs twice in three seasons – falling though at the semi-final stage on each occasion.

But perhaps Goodman's finest moment in a Wolves shirt would arrive at Elland Road on March 7, 1998, as he scored the only goal of the game to send Wolves into their first FA Cup semi-final in 17 years. Defeat to Arsenal stopped them going to Wembley and he finished his Wolves career with a flourish, netting three goals in his final four games.

That would not save him from Mark McGhee's clear-out in the summer though and – aside from a

brief loan stint at Barnsley – he spent three years out of English football at Sanfrecce Hiroshima in Japan and Motherwell in Scotland.

However, the Black Country came calling again in March 2001 – and this time it was the Saddlers.

Now aged 34, his goal record was drying up – but one of his three goals he scored was a vital equaliser in the play-off final victory over Reading that won the club promotion to the second tier.

He spent another year at Walsall before moving on to Exeter City, but the West Midlands called one last time – joining Stafford Rangers for a season before retiring – and he is now carving out a successful career as television pundit with Sky Sports.

## £12m Hogan vows to repay fans' faith

VILLA striker Scott Hogan has vowed to start justifying his £12million fee – and repay the fans who stuck by him during a difficult first year at the club. The 25-year-old's goal in a 5-0 New Year's Day win over Bristol City was his first in the Championship this season – and only his second since arriving in a big money move from Brentford last January.

Hogan hopes to use it as a platform to better things after admitting a lack of goals had left him low on confidence. In an honest interview, the Republic of Ireland international revealed how he sought the advice of friends and family and faced up to a few 'home truths' in a bid to recapture his form.

Hogan, who earned his move to Villa after blasting 15 goals for Brentford in the first half of last season, thanked supporters for their continued support despite his struggles. "The fans have been really good, considering their club spent a lot of money on a striker who hasn't scored goals," he said. "I would like to just repay them and hopefully, if there are people are on my back, I can now start changing their opinion."

## FIFA to probe alleged abuse of Gibbs-White

FIFA has confirmed it is investigating claims made by Liverpool striker Rhian Brewster that England team-mate Morgan Gibbs-White was racially abused during the Under-17 World Cup final.

Brewster, aged 17, made the allegation in an interview with the Guardian last week. He said he had either personally experienced racial abuse or witnessed it on a football pitch seven times, including five occasions in the last seven months.

One of the alleged incidents he referred to was aimed at Wolves midfielder Gibbs-White in October's 5-2 victory over Spain in Kolkata in which both Gibbs-White and Brewster scored. According to Brewster's interview, Gibbs-White was called 'a monkey' by a Spanish player.

A FIFA spokesman said it had recently received a complaint from the Football Association and 'is now analysing and gathering evidence'.

The FA is understood to have flagged up the incident at the time and followed that up with additional evidence in November.

## Supporters urged to join in club protest

THE Walsall Supporters Trust has urged fans to back a protest at Saturday's game against Oxford amid frustration at how the club is being run.

Fans are asked to stand outside the Banks's Stadium instead of buying tickets, while season ticket holders are encouraged to leave in the 80th minute to join them up with the other supporters outside.

Ollie Beckett, who has followed Walsall for 54 years, is behind the protest. He said: "This protest is not about shouting abuse or hurling insults, it's about saving this football club. The identity of our club is slowing being eroded away."

The Walsall Supporters Trust voted seven to two in favour of backing the planned protest and in a statement said: "Over the last few weeks, it has become obvious that more and more fans have become disillusioned with the way they perceive the club is being run."

"We encourage all fans to join this peaceful protest to show that now is time for the club to affirm the ambition that we all want."





SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

## Gingerbreads taste victory against Yeltz

**Halesowen Town 1 Grantham Town 3** SECOND placed Grantham proved too strong for Yeltz.

New home signing Kevin Monteiro looked lively for the hosts and on 19 minutes set up Khaelem Bailey-Nicholls, only for Oliver Luto to make a vital block.

Further home pressure saw Monteiro's 22nd minute low shot well saved by goalkeeper Kieran Preston. Matthew Barnes-Homer then exchanged passes with Monteiro but saw his 27th minute shot blocked.

Grantham went ahead in the 30th minute when Lee Shaw's shot was parried by goalkeeper Dan Platt and Curtis Burrows headed the rebound into an empty net.

The Gingerbreads doubled their lead in the 37th minute with a smart break-away as Jordan Hempenstall set Shaw free to fire his 27th goal of the season.

Shaw then fed Andrew Wright to make it 3-0 in the 64th minute after skipping Exodus Geohaghon's challenge to hit home from a tight angle.

Home substitute Roland Agbor picked his spot to beat Preston and pull a consolation goal back for Halesowen with a delicate 81st minute chip. Yeltz finished the game well and Jack Kelly fired just over the bar and in stoppage time Preston back-peddled to save from substitute Yasin Al-Massry before producing another fine save from Agbor.

Yeltz entertain Nantwich on Saturday. Kick off at The Grove is 3pm.

## Roynon rides again! Popular racer back in Heathens colours

POPULAR rider Adam Roynon is back with Cradley Heathens. The Cumbrian racer, who broke his leg trying to win the league for the club in 2012, is the first name on their National Trophy roster for the new season.

And he admits it's a dream move to be reunited with Heathens fans and bosses alike after his two injury-hit seasons with the Monmore Green side.

He said: "Their fans and their management are people who genuinely care about their riders. But there's also a lot of expectation because of how much they care and as a rider it's my duty to perform to the best of my ability."

"I've gained even more experience since I last rode for the club and hopefully I can come back in and do the job that is expected of me."

Heathens have signed Roynon with the aim of him appearing in all eight National Trophy fixtures and the Golden Hammer individual.

Club boss Gary Patchett said: "Adam was delighted to come back to us, even in a reduced fixture list. He has unfinished business and wants to do well for us."

## Athletes run up string of successes

HALESOWEN athletes tasted success at Worcestershire Cross Country Championships held at Warley Woods as well as on the track and road.

There were some excellent performances from young and old, most notably from Lily Higgins, the u-20s ladies champion and Sally Spencer, the Masters 50 champion.

For the under-13 girls, Kerriann Huxley came home ahead of Grace

Nolan, with Amelia Hartshorn in fourth for the team prize.

The under-13s boys, comprising Thomas Harris, Joseph Clarke and Daniel Jones, claimed third prize.

The under-15s boys - Owen Jinks, Sam Mannings, Max Price - and the girls team of Lottie Roberts, Falan Malone Priest and Eleanor Stark, secured the double with both teams winning and there was individual silver for Lottie. There was a brace

of team silvers for u-17 men, made up of Matthew Wilkinson, Lewis Henley and Dominic Price and for the under-20s, Peter Dear. Kristian Bayley and Keiran Walker.

Kerri James and Mel Hepke claimed Masters 40 silver and bronze while John Hill gained a silver in the M60 age group and Paul Allen was overall winner in the M70 age group.

Marc Turner won Master 40 silver to lead the senior men into second

place. Adam Cross, Roger Mallard, Jonathan Lewis, Joseph Philips, Paul Bradley made up the team.

In the Midlands Open at the HiPAC, Alexander Stadium, Iris Oliarnyk put in two great performances with 11.56 in triple jump followed by a personal best of 9.38s in the 60m hurdles.

On the road at the Telford 10K junior athlete Kristian Bayley ran 34:17 to set a personal best.

## Fighters go head-to-head for area title

EIGHT boxers will vie to become the Midlands Area Super Featherweight champion next month - and now they know who will go head-to-head.

The draw for the BCB's Midlands Boxing Super Series: The Super Featherweights took place before Christmas. The winner will take the area crown.

The quarter finals will take place at Walsall Football Club on Saturday, February 10. There will be four fights of six three-minute rounds. The semi-finals and final will take place later in 2018 at such time that current champion, Leon Woodstock, will have vacated his crown.

The draw brought up four intriguing contests with Old Hill's Manny Zaber paired up against Josh Bailie of Tamworth, a repeat of their November clash which saw 'Pac Man' Zaber retire with a nasty cut.

There's an all Birmingham clash with Paul Holt, who retired at Christmas, back in the ring to face Kane Baker.

Chasetown's Luke Jones steps in with West Bromwich's Jack Summers while the Jon Pegg managed duo, Tamworth's Louis Fielding and Derby's Indi Sangha slug it out to complete the quarter final stages.

Tickets are £35 general admission (£40 on the door) and £60 (VIP Ringside to include buffet and waitress service), and will be available from tomorrow (Friday) by calling 01922 651 414.

## Glassboys denied by late equaliser

**Stourbridge 1 Mickleover Sports 1** STOURBRIDGE had victory snatched from their grasp when Mickleover stunned their hosts with a 95th-minute equaliser on Saturday.

Stourbridge took the lead when Luke Benbow produced a sublime backheel to release Tonks, who clipped the ball home from an acute angle beyond goalkeeper Lewis King's reach.

Stourbridge could have increased the lead on 44 minutes when Matt Dodd struck the bar and the ball was twice cleared.

Paul McCone headed just wide from a Tonks throw and then powered a Benbow free-kick the wrong side of the post on 89 minutes and in stoppage time former Burton Albion player Jimmy Phillips levelled.

\*\*\* The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford, Thursday, January 11, 2018

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%



# HALES EMERGE WITH CREDIT

**Old Halesonians 15 Lichfield 31** HALES entered the new year with confidence and hopes were high for a first league victory.

They didn't quite manage to pull that off, but emerged with credit and were actually in front at 15-10.

Just five minutes had been played when Tom King's try was converted by Ethan Walker for a 7-0 advantage.

Lichfield broke free for a try, and, handling errors allowed Lichfield in for another score to take the lead. Parity was restored by a Walker penalty and it stayed level at the break.

The early exchanges of the second half saw Hales in the ascendancy and winger Jay Reid was set free to sprint through for a try.

Hales remained confident but decision making and handling let them down and on 63 minutes they conceded a converted try to relinquish the lead.

The advantage remained with the visitors and Hales lost Walker and Wayne Cooper to yellow cards. A penalty try followed and Lichfield again took advantage in the closing stages.

Old Hales travel to Longton on Saturday, kick off 2.15

**Burton 60 Old Hales 2nds 5** WHEN Old Hales 2nds faced Burton earlier in the season it had been competitive and with several players returning from injuries here, it was hoped that Old Hales would trouble their opponents. Unfortunately this wasn't to be.

Old Hales were again slow to start and allowed Burton to take a commanding lead.

Old Hales did not let their heads drop and came back into the game, Dylan Fennel's solitary score a highlight. A number of players can be very pleased with their afternoon's work despite the eventual scoreline.

However, Burton remained a constant threat and scored a number of well-worked tries.

This weekend, Old Hales 2nds welcome top of the league Hinckley to Wassell Grove.

## End of the world for darts duo



Jamie Hughes and Scott Baker were both knocked out at the first round stage

TIPTON darters Jamie Hughes and Scott Baker are both out of the BDO World Championships at the first hurdle.

Lakeside debutant Baker was first to go after a see-saw battle with Andy Baetens - the Belgian 13th seed coming out on top 3-2 in sets.

Hughes, meanwhile, was stunned by German open qualifier Michel Unterbuchner.

Some 79 ranking places separated the third

seed from the BDO No 82. But Unterbuchner, who had to beat Canada's David Cameron 3-2 just to get past the preliminary round and face two-time semi-finalist 'Yozza', came out on top after a last set battle.

He came out on top 3-2 overall and 5-3 in the final set against the 31-year-old Black Country thrower, after a 'win by two clear legs' decider was initiated.

**DOULTON DOORS** Garage Doors & UPVC Windows & Doors



**Our Extensive Range of All Garage Doors Covers All Popular Brands**

**We have everything from Canopy to Side Hung styles Wrought Iron Gates & Railings available**

Visit Us At

**Doulton Trading Est., Doulton Road, Rowley Regis B65 8JG**



Visit Us At

**Doulton Trading Est., Doulton Road, Rowley Regis B65 8JG**

**Tel: 01384 413331 | 01902 628018**

**Freephone: 0800 0375179 Mobile: 07721 783291**

**www.doultondoors.co.uk**

